Burlingame Public Library

Autobiographies and Memoirs

for Middle Readers 9-12 years old

The abracadabra kid: a writer's life *by Sid Fleischman*
(JB F628a) grades 5 and up
When Sid Fleischman was a child he really wanted to be a magician. He wound up being a very successful and Newbery Award- winning author. This funny autobiography tells of his journey and includes many writing tips for aspiring young authors. 198 pgs.

Author: a true story *by Helen Lester*
(J813.54 L567a) grades K-4

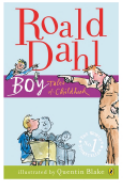
Lester's lighthearted autobiography traces the writer's journey from her three-year old scribbles to the sale of her first manuscript. 32 pgs.

Bad boy: a memoir *by Walter Dean Myers*
(JB M992a) grades 7 and up
Myers' memoir recounts his childhood in Harlem during the 1940s and 50s. 214 pgs.

Bill Peet: an autobiography *by Bill Peet*
(JB P347a) 3rd grade and up

In addition to writing many children's books, Bill Peet also worked as an animation artist for Disney. This autobiography is told in a long picture book style illustrated by the author. 190 pgs.

Boy: tales of a childhood *by Roald Dahl*
(JB D137a) 4th grade and up



The author of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and other humorous children's stories tells of his childhood growing up in England. 176 pgs.

The boy on the wooden box: how the impossible became possible…Schindler's List *by Leon Leyson with Marilyn J. Harran and Elisabeth B. Leyson* (JB L597a) grades 5-8
As a child, Leyson was one of the youngest children on Schindler's List. This memoir recounts his amazing life as a Holocaust survivor. 231 pgs.

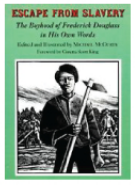
Chinese Cinderella: the story of an unwanted daughter *by Adeline Mah*
(JB M277a) 6th grade and up

This is the story of a Chinese girl's life and cruel mistreatment by her stepmother as she grew up in Shanghai during the 1940s. 205 pgs.

Drawing from memory *by Allen Say*
(JB Sa991a) 5th grade and up

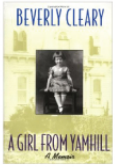
Part memoir and part graphic novel, featuring Say's stunning artwork, this book describes the author/illustrator's life growing up in Japan. 63 pgs.

Escape from slavery: the boyhood of Frederick Douglass in his own words
(JB D745a2) 4th grade and up



This autobiography tells of the author's time as a slave and as an abolitionist. 63 pgs.

A girl from Yamhill: a memoir *by Beverly Cleary*
(JB C58g) 6th grade and up



The author of such classics as Beezus and Ramona and The Mouse and the Motorcycle tells her life story through the time she went to college. 279 pgs.

Guts: the true stories behind Hatchet and the Brian books *by Gary Paulsen* (JB P285g) 6th grade and up
The author of numerous adventure stories for middle readers presents true adventures from his life that inspired characters in his survival tales. 148 pgs.

Hope Solo: my story *by Hope Solo*
(J796.334 So471a) 5th grade and up

A professional soccer player and Olympic athlete, Hope Solo shares the obstacles she overcame to become the tremendous athlete that she is. This book includes great description of soccer action. 246 pgs.

I am Rosa Parks *by Rosa Parks with Jim Haskins*
(JB P237a2) 2nd-4th grade

The author presents a brief look at the woman well known for her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a bus during the Civil Rights Era. 48 pgs.

Knucklehead: tall tales and mostly true stories about growing up Scieszka *by Jon Scieszka*
(JB Sci279a) 3rd-6th grade
The always humorous Jon Scieszka shares stories of growing up in a house full of boys. 106 pgs.

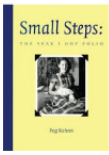
The lost garden *by Laurence Yep*
(JB Y43a) 5th grade and up

The Asian-American writer relates the difficulties of growing up in San Francisco in the mid-20th century, while trying to find his place as an Asian and an American. 117 pgs.

Reaching for the moon *by Buzz Aldrin*
(JfB AL24a2) grades 1-4
Told in the first person, this picture book autobiography gives readers a glimpse of the events that led Buzz Aldrin to be the second man to walk on the moon. 40 pgs.

Red scarf girl: a memoir of the Cultural Revolution *by Ji-Li Jiang* (JB J56a) 6th grade and up
A teenage girl tells about growing up during the Cultural Revolution in China during the 1960s. 285 pgs.

Small steps- the year I got polio *by Peg Kehret*
(JB K261a) Grades 4-6



The author describes her childhood growing up with a debilitating illness. 179 pgs.

Thura's diary: my life in wartime Iraq *by Thura Al-Windawi* (JB Al109ad) 131 pgs. 6th grade and up
Through her personal diary entries, a nineteen-year-old girl shows what life was like just prior to the war in Iraq in March 2003.

Under the royal palms: a childhood in Cuba *by Alma Flor Ada* (J813.54 Ad11u) 85 pgs. grades 4-7
The author describes life growing up in Cuba during the 1940s.

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