



**The Beginnings of Writers: Ten Authors Reflect on their Boyhoods**

Crutcher, Chris	<u>King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography</u> <i>Grades 8 and up.</i>
DePaola, Tomie	<u>26 Fairmont Avenue</u> <i>Grades 2-4</i>
Dahl, Roald	<u>Boy: Tales of Childhood</u> <u>Going Solo</u> <i>Grades 4 and up</i>
Fleischman, Sid	<u>The Abracadabra Kid: A Writer's Life</u> <i>Grades 5-8</i>
Gantos, Jack	<u>Hole In My Life</u> <i>Grades 9 and up</i>
Myers, Walter Dean	<u>Bad Boy: A Memoir</u> <i>Grades 7 and up</i>
Paulsen, Gary	<u>My Life in Dog Years</u> <i>Grades 4 and up</i>
Peck, Richard	<u>Invitations to the World: Teaching and Writing for the Young</u> <i>Grades 5 and up</i>
Simon, Seymour	<u>From Paper Planes to Outer Space</u> <i>Grades 2-5</i>
Spinelli, Jerry	<u>Knots in My Yo- Yo String</u> <i>Grades 5 and up</i>

## *Building Lives: Stories of Rescue, Construction, and Redemption*

### Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship

Told by Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff, and Dr. Paula Kahumbu

Owen is a baby hippo who was orphaned in the tsunami of December 2004. He is rescued and sent to an animal sanctuary near the city of Mombasa in Kenya. Owen forms a most surprising attachment to a 130-year-old tortoise named Mzee. Pair with Jeannette Winter's Mama: a true story in which a baby hippo loses his mama during a tsunami but finds a new home and a new mama, an illustrated depiction which lovingly tells the story using only two words: Mama and Baby. Check out the sequel, Owen & Mzee: The Language of Friendship.

### The True Story of Stellina

By Matteo Pericoli

Matteo Pericoli, author and illustrator of See the City: The Journey of Manhattan Unfurled, tells the true story of Stellina, a common wild finch who leads a very uncommon life (for a wild bird) after being rescued by Pericoli's wife, Holly. The little bird has fallen out of its nest on the corner of Third Ave. and 46<sup>th</sup> St. in NYC and her mother is nowhere to be found. They live happily together as a family in an apartment on the Upper West Side for 8 years, until Stellina's death.

### The World's Greatest Elephant

By Ralph Helfer. Illustrated by Ted Lewin

The story of Bram, a German boy, and Modoc, an Indian elephant who were born on the same day and spent much of their lives together in and around the circus. Author Ralph Helfer, an animal trainer himself, owned Modoc for the last 20 years of her life and was there when Bram and Modoc rediscovered each other after a long separation.

### Ballet of the Elephants

By Leda Schubert. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker

Here Modoc makes another appearance in a story in which the lives of Igor Stravinsky, George Balanchine, and John Ringling converge to realize a dream of an idea: that elephants can be trained to dance ballet. Stravinsky believed that, "his music was best understood by children and animals" so the circus was the perfect venue for him. To understand that not only can elephants be trained to dance, but are also artists in the making, check out Elephants Can Paint Too!, by Katya Arnold.

### Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing

By April Jones Prince. Illustrated by Francois Roca

When the Brooklyn Bridge was finally completed after 14 years of construction, many feared it would collapse under the weight of all the traffic. P.T. Barnum saw an opportunity to assuage these fears and decided to bring his circus to town. Twenty-one elephants, including the famous Jumbo, who alone weighed 7 tons, walked across the bridge. With much fanfare and flourish, the proud elephants paraded across the span, convincing the public that the bridge, in fact, was sound. Pair with *Twenty-One Elephants* by Phil Bildner for a different treatment of the same story and Elizabeth Mann's Brooklyn Bridge for a comprehensive rendering of the building of the world's most famous bridge.

### Skyboys: How They Built the Empire State Building

By Deborah Hopkinson & James E. Ransome

Follow a young boy's experience as he witnesses the building of the Empire State Building from the ground up. An awesome triumph of manpower and engineering during the Depression, this story is a testament of people working together to achieve a goal beyond anyone's wildest dreams. Pair with Elizabeth Mann's Empire State Building which presents photographs, illustrations, and astonishing statistics.

### Show Way

By Jacqueline Woodson. Illustrated by Hudson Talbott

A Show Way is a type of quilt in whose patterns are embedded secret maps and landmarks that helped slaves find their way to freedom. This tale of six generations of African American women shows that while each descendent came closer to freedom, their urgent need to tell their stories never lessened. The narrator's mother tells her, "All the stuff that happened before you is your own kind of Show Way."

### Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescents

By Mark Podwal

Under a sky that has witnessed miracles, wars and always the bright hope of a new day, this book relates the ancient history of Jerusalem through the lens of Jewish, Christian and Muslim legend and lore. Elie Wiesel says: "If Jerusalem is a crown, these words and paintings by Mark Podwal are its precious jewel."

### Jazz

By Walter Dean Myers. Illustrated by Christopher Myers

As well as a comprehensive study of Jazz, this book is a love note to New Orleans. The exuberant paintings of Christopher Myers, coupled with the rhythmic, foot-tapping poetry of his father, will add grace and electric energy to any poetry study.

### **Make Them Laugh: Humorous Books for Boys**

Doyle, Roddy	<u>The Giggler Treatment</u> <i>Ages 4-10</i>
Greenburg, Dan	<u>The Zack Files</u> <u>Secrets of Dripping Fang</u> <i>Ages 7-12</i>
Gantos, Jack	<u>Rotten Ralph Series</u> <i>Ages 4-8</i>
Horowitz, Anthony	<u>Diamond Brothers Mysteries</u> <u>South by Southeast, Falcon's Malteser, Three of Diamonds,</u> <u>Public Enemy Number Two</u> <i>Ages 9-12</i>
Marshall, James	<u>Fox and his Friends</u> <u>George and Martha</u> <i>Ages 4 and up</i>
Sachar, Louis	<u>Wayside School Series</u> <i>Ages 9-12</i>
Scieszka, John	<u>The Stinky Cheeseman and Other Fairly Stupid Tales</u> <u>The True Story of the Three Little Pigs</u> <u>The Time Warp Trio</u> <i>Ages 5 and up</i>
Pilky, Dav	<u>Captain Underpants Series</u> <u>Ricky Ricotta Series</u> <i>Ages 4 and up</i>
Smith, Jeff	<u>The Bone Series</u> <i>Ages 9-12</i>
Watterson, Bill	<u>Calvin and Hobbes</u>

\*\*\*And try all varieties of Joke Books such as The Biggest Joke Book in The World by Matt Rissinger or Best Joke Book Ever by Charles Keller and Jeff Sinclair\*\*\*



## Graphic Literature

Amend, Bill  
**FoxTrot Collections**  
High School/Adult

Davis, Jim  
**Garfield**  
Elementary/Middle

Groening, Matt  
**The Simpsons**  
Middle/High School

Herge  
**Adventures of TinTin**  
Elementary/Middle

Smith, Jeff  
**Bone**  
Elementary/Middle

Spiegelman, Art  
**Maus**  
Middle/High School

Stanley, John  
**Little LuLu**  
Middle School

Watterson, Bill  
**Calvin and Hobbes**  
All Ages

**Graphic NonFiction Series**  
Rosen Central Publishers  
Titles include: Julius Caesar, Elizabeth I, Harriet Tubman, Sitting Bull

**Graphic Classics Series**  
Eureka Productions  
Titles include: Bram Stoker, Edgar Allen Poe, H.G. Wells  
High School



## Magazines for Boys

### ***Apple Seed***

Covers non-fiction reading and social studies topics. Issues are centered around a theme such as daily life in ancient Africa to modern heroes. Ages 7-9.

### ***Boys' Life***

Offers three different demographic editions for boys from first grade through high school. *Boys' Life* is a publication of the Boy Scouts of America.

### ***Boys' Quest***

Features articles about building projects, science experiments, articles on sports and fun cartoons. For ages 6 to 12.

### ***Dig***

Published with the **Archaeological Institute of America**, *Dig* explores archaeological discovery and the cultural, scientific, and architectural traits and beliefs of different societies. For ages 8-14.

### ***Muse***

Sponsored by **Smithsonian**, *Muse* features articles on space, genetics, lasers, rain forests, computers, physics, math, visual arts, earth sciences. For ages 9-14.

### ***National Geographic for Kids***

Published by the National Geographic Society, NGK has regular features such as *Amazing Animals*, *Weird But True*, *Cool Inventions*. For ages 6-14.

### ***Owl***

A magazine packed with amazing facts including the science behind how things work, news stories and puzzles. For 9-13 year olds.

### ***Ranger Rick***

From the National Wildlife Federation, each issue of *Ranger Rick* is packed with information about animals and their habitats. Suitable for children 7 & up.

### ***Sports Illustrated For Kids***

A spin-off of *Sports Illustrated*, *SI KIDS* includes features about star athletes, tips on improving your game, and humor pieces. For pre-teens up to 17 years old.

***Sports Magazines for Individual Sports:*** Wrestling, Basketball, Softball, Rowing,  
For a list of available magazines visit <http://www.ebscomags.com>.



## **Non Fiction Books for Middle Schoolers**

Arnold, Katya	Elephants Can Paint Too!
Gerestein, Mordecai	<u>The Man Who Walked Between the Towers</u>
Iggulden, Conn, Iggulden, Hal	<u>The Dangerous Book for Boys</u>
Jackson, Donna M.	<u>The Wildlife Detectives: How Forensic Scientists Fight Against Nature</u>
Jamieson, Wendell	<u>Father Knows Less or: Can I Cook My Sister?: One Dad's Quest to Answer his Son's Most Baffling Questions</u>
Jenkins, Steve	<u>Actual Size</u> <u>Prehistoric Size</u>
Macauley, David	<u>The New Way Things Work</u>
Romanek, Trudee	<u>Achoo! The Most Interesting Book You'll Ever Read About Germs</u>

### EYEWITNESS BOOKS IN ALL SUBJECTS

#### **My Favorite Read Aloud for This Year**

Babbitt, Natalie	<u>Jack Plank Tells Tales Tells</u>
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## **Professional Books about Boys and Reading**

*Allyn, Pam*

**The Complete 4 for Literacy**

*Baxter, Kathleen A. and Kochel, Marcia Agness*

**Gotcha for Guys!: Nonfiction Books to Get Boys Excited about Reading**

*Booth, David*

**Even Hockey Players Read**

*Fletcher, Ralph*

**Boy Writers: Reclaiming Their Voices**

*Gurian, Michael and Steven, Kathy*

**The Minds of Boys: Saving Our Sons From Falling Behind in School and Life**

[www.gurianinstitute.com](http://www.gurianinstitute.com)

*Krashen, Stephen D.*

**The Power of Reading, Second Edition: Insights from the Research**

*Odean, Kathleen*

**Great Books for Boys: More than 600 Books for Boys 2-14**

*Pollack, William S. and Shuster, Todd*

**Real Boys' Voices**

*Scieszka, Jon*

**Guys Write for Guys Read**

[www.guysread.com/](http://www.guysread.com/)

*Smith, Michael W. and Wilhem, Jeffrey D.*

**Going with the Flow: How to Engage Boys (and Girls) in Their Literacy Learning**

**“Reading Don’t Fix No Chevys”: Literacy in the Lives of Young Men**

*Sullivan, Michael*

**Connecting Books With Boys: What Libraries Can do**

<http://talestoldtall.com/>

The logo for LitLife, featuring the text "LitLife" in a white serif font centered within a solid blue square.

***Series Boys Love***

Akamatsu, Ken  
***Negima! (Manga)***

Black, Holly and DiTerlizzi, Tony  
***The Spiderwick Chronicles***

Christopher, Matt  
***#1 Sports Series for Kids, Matt Christopher Legendary Sports Events, Classics Series, On the Field With...***

Colfer, Eoin  
***Artemis Fowl***

Dixon, Franklin W.  
***The Hardy Boys***

Flanagan, John  
***The Ranger's Apprentice***

Goscinny, Rene and Sempe, Jean Jacques  
***Nicholas***  
*Nicholas, Nicholas Again, Nicholas on Vacation, Nicholas and the Gang*

Goscinny, Rene and Uderzo, Albert  
***Asterix***

Gutman, Dan  
***Baseball Card Adventures***

Herge  
***Tintin***

Higson, Charlie  
***The Young Bond Series***  
*Silver Fin, Blood Fever, Double or Die, Hurricane Gold*

Horowitz, Anthony  
***Alex Rider Series***

Stormbreaker, Point Blank, Skeleton Key, Eagle Strike, Scorpia, Snakehead

Hunter, Erin  
**Warriors**

Jacques, Brian  
**Redwall**

Kurzweil, Allen  
**Leon**  
Leon and the Champion Chip, Leon and the Spitting Image

Lewis, C.S.  
**The Chronicles of Narnia**

Lupica, Mike  
**Mike Lupica's Comeback Kids**

MacHale, D.J.  
**Pendragon**

Muchamore, Robert  
**Cherub**

Nix, Garth  
**Keys to the Kingdom**  
**The Abhorsen Trilogy**  
**The Seventh Tower**

Paolini, Christopher  
**Inheritance**  
Eragon, Eldest

Patterson, James  
**Maximum Ride**

Paver, Michelle  
**Chronicles of Ancient Darkness**

Pilkey, Dav  
**Captain Underpants**

Riordan, Rick  
**Percy and the Olympians Series**

The Lightning Thief, The Sea of Monsters, The Titan's Curse, The Battle of the Labyrinth (May '08)

Rodda, Emily  
*Dragons of Deltora*  
*Deltora Quest*

Rowling, J.K.  
*Harry Potter*

Sachar, Louis  
*The Wayside School*

Scieszka, Jon and Smith, Lane  
*Time Warp Trio*

Shan, Darren  
*Cirque du Freak*  
Snicket, Lemony  
*Series of Unfortunate Events*

Stone, Jeff  
*The Five Ancestors*

Tolkien, J.R.R.  
*Lord of the Rings*

Toriyama, Akira  
*Dragon Ball Z (Manga)*

Watterson, Bill  
*Calvin and Hobbes*



## Sports Books for Middle Schoolers

- Bee, Clair      Chip Hilton Sports Series
- Bruchac, Joseph      Sports Shorts
- Christopher, Matt      Matt Christopher Sports Biographies Series  
Matt Christopher Legendary Sports Events Series
- Feinstein, John      Final Four Mysteries (series)  
Last Shot  
Vanishing Act  
The Cover-Up
- Gutman, Dan      Baseball Card Adventure Series (*Babe and Me, Honus and Me, etc*)  
The Million Dollar Shot  
The Million Dollar Putt  
The Million Dollar Kick
- Lupica, Mike      Heat  
Travel Team  
Miracle on 49<sup>th</sup> St.  
Summer Ball  
The Comeback Kids (series)
- Umler, Michael      J is For Jump Shot: A Basketball Alphabet (Sports Alphabet Series)
- Wallace, Rick      Winning Season (series)

