

We Go Together: Pairing the Latest Non-Fiction for Teens with Fiction Titles

American History

Becoming Ben Franklin. Russell Freedman. Holiday House, 2013, 6th-10th

Forget what you know about Ben Franklin. Meet 17-year-old runaway Ben, strong, energetic, and ambitious, with intelligence and charm to spare. Freedman traces Franklin's life and work, showing how a mischievous boy became a rebellious apprentice, then a successful colonial printer, and finally an influential figure in the world. Primary sources.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Five 4ths of July by Hughes

Bomb. Steve Sheinkin. Roaring Brook Press, 2012, 7th-12th.

Examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world. This is narrative non-fiction at its best.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Trinity by Fetter-Vorm

Courage Has No Color: the True Story of the Triple Nickels: America's First Black Paratroopers. Tanya Lee Stone. Candlewick, 2013, 5th-10th

Detailed accounting of the history of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion during WWII and beyond.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Jump into the Sky by Pearsall

Imprisoned. Martin W. Sandler. Walker, 2013, 6th-10th.

Examines the American internment of Japanese Americans and immigrants in concentration camps during World War II, and the struggle of internees to rebuild their lives after they were freed at the end of the war. Documents, primary sources.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Missing in Action by Hughes

Thin Wood Walls by Patneaude
any of Harry Mazer's WWII titles

Lincoln's Grave Robbers. Steve Sheinkin. Scholastic Press, 2013, 6th-12th

Did you know there was a plot to steal Lincoln's body from its tomb to hold for ransom? The ransom: To let a famous counterfeiter out of jail so he could get back to work. The Secret Service infiltrated the group, broke up the plans and laid in wait on the night of the raid. Eventually, Lincoln was buried under tons and tons of concrete, where he lies to this day. Fascinating true story that reads like a Crichton thriller.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Taken by Bloor

Heist Society by Carter

Outlaw by Davies

Girl, Stolen by Henry

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The President Has Been Shot. James L. Swanson. Scholastic Press, 2013, 6th-10th

The author of *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* brings his talents to narrating the events of John F. Kennedy's assassination. It is captivating and insightful, even being good for reading for pleasure.

◆Pair this title with:

Kennedy's Last Days by Bill O'Reilly

Tillie Pierce: Teen Eyewitness to the Battle of Gettysburg. Tanya Anderson. 21st Century, 2013, 6th-10th

Describes the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War through the eyes of Tillie Pierce, a teenager who lived through the fighting. Includes primary sources.

◆Pair this title with:

River Between Us by Peck
anything by Ann Rinaldi

To the Mountaintop. Charlayne Hunter-Gault. Roaring Brook, 2012, 6th-12th

A personal history of the civil rights movement.

We've Got a Job. Cynthia Levinson. Peachtree, 2012, 6th-12th

The story of the 1963 Children's March as seen through the eyes of four young people who were at the center of the action.

◆Pair these titles with:

Fire from the Rock by Draper
Sources of Light by McMullan
Lions of Little Rock by Levine
Out of Shadows by Wallace
Silence of our Friends by Long

Arts/Entertainment

The Giant and How He Humbugged America. Jim Murphy. Scholastic, 2012, 5th-8th

When a 10-foot tall purported "petrified man" is unearthed from a backyard in upstate New York in 1869, the discovery immediately turns into a spectacle of epic proportions, becoming one of America's most famous hoaxes.

◆Pair this title with:

Chupacabra by Smith

My Adventures as a Young Filmmaker. Andrew Jenks. Scholastic Press, 2013, 7th-12th

Fans of the MTV and ESPN documentary filmmaker can find out about Jenks, from growing up to becoming a renowned documentary filmmaker in this comprehensive photo-biography. How did he do it? By following his own rules for success: always be flexible, fake it till you make it, and never accept no.

◆Pair this title with:

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Andrews
Call the Shots by Calame
Moon and More by Dessen

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Yoko Ono- Collector of Skies. Nell Beram and Carolyn Boriss-Krimsky. Amulet Books, 2013, 8th-12th

This brings Yoko Ono out of the role of John Lennon's wife and makes her life as an artist more real. Several of her installations are examined in depth, with pictures and explanations. Her childhood to wealthy, but emotionally distant parents, her time in multiple boarding schools and her tumultuous marriages before she married John Lennon are discussed.

◆*Pair this title with:*

See What I See by Whelan

Beatle Meets Destiny by Williams

Biography/Memoir

1 Year, 100 Pounds. Whitney Holcome. Simon Pulse, 2014, 8th-10th

Whitney Holcombe shares how she lost one hundred pounds and provides strategies for nutrition, health, and fitness.

◆*Pair this title with:*

45 Pounds, More or Less by Barson

Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller. Joseph Lambert. Disney Hyperion/Disney Book Group, 2012, 6th-10th

You thought you knew the whole story. Lambert presents an original take on the story of the relationship between Teacher Annie Sullivan and her pupil, Helen Keller.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Blindsided by Cummings

Miss Spitfire by Miller

Coming Clean. Kimberly Rae Miller. New Harvest, 2013, 9th & up

Miller grew up behind the closed doors of her family's idyllic Long Island house, navigating between teetering stacks of aging newspapers, broken computers, and boxes upon boxes of unused junk festering in every room-- the product of her father's painful and unending struggle with hoarding.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Crazy by Nolan

Dirty Little Secrets by Omololu

Guilty of Being Weird. Cynthia Faryon. Lorimar, 2013, 8th-12th

Presents the true story of Guy Paul Morin, a twenty-four-year-old who was arrested and convicted for a murder he did not commit.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Butter by Lange

Legend by Lu

Harmless by Reinhardt

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I am Malala. Malala Yousefzai. Little, Brown, 2013, 9th-12th

Yousefzai describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

◆Pair this title with:

A Moment Comes by Bradbury

Sold by McCormick

Words in the Dust by Reedy

Master of Deceit . Marc Aronson. Candlewick, 2012, 8th-12th

J. Edgar Hoover was the FBI for decades, making the bargain with America that he would keep people safe, mostly by taking whatever liberties with the law that he thought necessary. A fascinating peek behind the politics of the fledgling FBI and how this complicated man built it into an investigative juggernaut.

◆Pair this title with:

Also Known As by Benway

Alex Rider series by Horowitz

Cherub series by Muchamore

Rapture Practice. Aaron Hartzler. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2013, 8th-12th

As a teen growing up in a very religious house, Hartzler was taught to believe that the Rapture could happen at any moment, and he should be prepared. Slowly, he began to realize that he had different beliefs.

◆Pair this title with:

Beginning of Everything by Schneider

With or Without You. Domenica Ruta. Spiegel & Grau, 2013, 9th-12th.

Ruta's memoir of growing up the child of a drug-addicted mother.

◆Pair this title with:

If You Find Me by Murdoch

Breaking Night by Murray

Eleanor & Park by Rowell

Yes, Chef. Marcus Samuelsson. Random House, 2012, 9th-12th

World-renowned chef Marcus Samuelsson chronicles his life, covering his birth in Ethiopia, his adoption into a Swedish family at age three, learning to cook from his Swedish grandmother, working at restaurants around the world, and opening his own restaurant in Harlem.

◆Pair this title with:

Relish by Knisley

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Science

Bones Never Lie. Elizabeth MacLeod. Annick Press, 2013, 6th-10th

Some of History's biggest mysteries solved by forensic science.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Guy Langman, Crime Scene Procrastinator by Berk

Man in the Iron Mask by Dumas

Forensic Mystery series by Ferguson

any **Sherlock Holmes** mystery

Fourth Down and Inches. Carla Killough McClafferty. Carolrhoda Books, 2013, 5th-10th.

Contains an in-depth examination of the head and brain injuries that are on the rise among football players.

◆*Pair this title with:*

The League by Heldring

Frankenstein's Cat. Emily Anthes. Farrar, Strauss, & Giroux, 2013. 10th-12th.

Explores the genetic engineering of animals, including cloning endangered species, animal prosthetics, and engineering disease-resistant livestock.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Inhuman by Falls

Madman's Daughter by Shepherd

Man Made Boy by Skovron

Island of Dr. Moreau by Wells

Invincible Microbe. Jim Murphy. Clarion, 2012, 6th-10th.

Discusses the history of tuberculosis and the attempts to find a cure. Primary sources.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Queen of Hearts by Brooks

Moonbird. Philip Hoose. Farrar, Strauss, & Giroux, 2012, 6th-10th.

Chronicles a year in the life of rufa red knot B95, also called Moonbird, following him through his migration pattern and discussing the environmental problems that caused the rufa population to collapse by nearly eighty percent. Maps, sidebars.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Where Things Come Back by Whaley

Primates. Jim Ottaviani. First Second, 2013, 7th & up.

In graphic novel format, explores the lives and work of scientists Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas, who lived with and studied chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans, respectively, in their natural habitats, creating between them a body of work that greatly improved our understanding of primates, including humans.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Endangered by Schreffer

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Skull in the Rock. Marc Aronson & Lee Berger. National Geographic Children's, 2012, 5th-8th

A nine year old and his paleontologist father discover a nearly complete skeleton of an entirely new species of early man.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Island of Thieves by Lacey

Temple Grandin. Sy Montgomery. Houghton Mifflin, 2012, 6th-10th.

This compelling biography complete with Temple's personal photos takes us inside her extraordinary mind and opens the door to a broader understanding of autism.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Riding Invisible by Alonzo

Finding Somewhere by Monninger

Sports

The Boys in the Boat. Daniel Brown. Viking, 2013, 8th & up.

Tells how in 1936 the University of Washington's eight-oar crew, composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers who had mastered collegiate rowing, went on to the Berlin Olympics where they defeated Adolf Hitler's German team to achieve the Olympic gold medal.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Whale Talk by Crutcher

Muckers by Wallace

Hope Solo: My Story. Hope Solo. HarperCollins, 2012, 7th-12th

The story of how a determined young athlete overcame adversity to become the best in the world. Adapted for young people from her memoir.

◆*Pair this title with:*

However Tall the Mountain by Ayub

Shutout by Halpin

Dairy Queen by Murdock

Running Dream by Van Draanen

On These Courts. Wayne B Drash. Simon & Schuster, 2013, 9th-12th.

Recounts the life of former NBA star Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway, from growing up in a rough neighborhood in Memphis, to playing in the NBA, to returning to that neighborhood to help out a childhood friend and coach disadvantaged youth.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Foul Trouble by Feinstein

Final Four by Volponi

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Outcasts United. Warren St. John. Delacorte, 2012, 7th-12th

This young people's adaptation of the adult bestseller is an inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Out of Nowhere by Padian

Running for My Life. Lopez Lomong. Thomas Nelson, 2012, 7th-12th

Sudanese-born American Olympian Lopez Lomong shares his experiences of being kidnapped as a young boy to become a child soldier, his escape to a refugee camp, and his emigration to the United States where he was able to train as a runner and compete in the Olympic Games.

◆*Pair this title with:*

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a boy soldier by Beah

Now is the Time for Running by Williams

Survival/Adventure

Escape from Camp 14. Blaine Harden. Viking, 2012, 9th-12th

Chronicles the life of Dong-hyuk Shin, who was raised in a political prison camp in North Korea, and describes the inhuman conditions inside, his harrowing escape from the camp and the country, and his efforts to raise awareness of the camps to others.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Never Fall Down by McCormick

Guantanamo Boy by Perera

Orleans by Smith

I am a Seal Team Six Warrior. Howard Wasdin. St. Martins, 2012, 8th-12th

Howard Wasdin reflects on his life and military career, discussing his difficult childhood, training, goal to become a member of Navy SEAL Team Six, experiences during the Battle of Mogadishu, and more.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Personal Effects by Kokie

Torn by Massey

Invasion by Myers

Things a Brother Knows by Reinhardt

Impossible Rescue. Martin W. Sandler. Candlewick, 2012, 6th-10th

Whaling ships stranded in Arctic ice, in the dead of winter. Three rescuers race against time, and all odds, in this heart-pounding true adventure.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World by Armstrong

Miracle in the Andes by Parrado

Revolver by Sedgwick

Between Shades of Gray by Sepetys

On the Edge of Survival by Walker

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Last Airlift. Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch. Pajama, 2012, 6th-12th

Raised in a Vietnamese orphanage, Tuyet was on board the last Canadian airlift out of Saigon before its fall in 1975. This is her incredible journey to find a new home.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

Nowhere Girl by Paquette

Sophie. Emma Pearce. DeCampo Press, 2012, 8th-12th

Sophie, the Australian cattle dog who was lost at sea and swam six miles through shark-infested waters to a remote island where she survived in the wild for five months.

◆*Pair this title with:*

Raft by Bodeen

World History

Boy on the Wooden Box. Leon Leyson. Atheneum, 2013, 6th-10th

A remarkable memoir from Leon Leyson, one of the youngest children to survive the Holocaust on Oskar Schindler's list.

His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg. Louise Borden. Houghton Mifflin, 2012, 6th-12th

A remarkable story of a holocaust rescuer whose story deserves to be told.

◆*Pair these titles with:*

In My Hands by Opdyke

Prisoner B-3087 by Gratz

Code Name Pauline. Pearl Witherington Cornioley. Chicago Review Press, 2013, 7th- 10th

World War II resistance fighter Pearl Witherington Cornioley describes her experiences as a special agent for the British Special Operations Executive (SOE).

◆*Pair this title with:*

Code Name Verity by Wein

Darkness Everywhere. Matt Doeden. Twenty-First Century Books, 2014, 7th-10th

This book traces the remarkable journey of Gandhi and his assassins to their fateful encounter in Delhi. This is a story of Gandhi's great achievements, the enemies who brought him down, and the legacy that continues to inspire the fight for freedom and justice around the world. Primary sources, timelines.

◆*Pair this title with:*

A Beautiful Lie by Master

Climbing the Stairs by Venkatraman

A Moment Comes by Bradbury

Iceberg Right Ahead. Stephanie Sammartino McPherson. Twenty First Century Books, 2012, 6th-10th.

Explores the lasting legacy of the Titanic tragedy. A must-have.

◆*Pair this title with:*

The Watch That Ends the Night by Wolf

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The Nazi Hunters. Neal Bascomb. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2013, 6th & up

Adolf Eichmann, the organizer behind all the details of the Final Solution for Nazi Germany, got away after WWII. He reportedly relocated to Argentina under a false name to get away with his crimes. But, a random tip made its way to the Israeli government, and agents snatched him off the streets and bundled him back to Israel for trial.

◆Pair this title with:

Rose Under Fire by Wein

Other Titles for Your Consideration

Break These Rules. Luke Reynolds, ed. Chicago Review Press, 2013, 6th-12th

Contains essays and anecdotes from thirty-five young adult authors about being a teenager and how to be yourself.

◆Pair this title with:

Any title by the contributing authors!

Fairy Ring. Mary Losure. Candlewick, 2012, 192pgs. 6th-9th.

The enchanting true story of a girl who saw fairies, and another with a gift for art, who concocted a story to stay out of trouble and ended up fooling the world.

The New Kids. Brooke Hauser. Free Press, 2012, 9th-12th

Freelance writer Hauser tracks the staff and students at the International High School at Prospect Heights in Brooklyn, N.Y., providing their personal histories as well as their day-to-day experiences.

Spies Around the World series. Michael E. Goodman. Creative Education, 2013, 7th-10th.

◆Pair these titles with:

Any spy novel/series

Scandalous. Hallie Fryd. Zest, 2012, 8th-12th

American history meets TMZ.

Super Pop!. Daniel Harmon. Zest Books, 2013, 9th-12th

Over forty top-ten lists about pop culture, from bestselling books and platinum albums to "essential podcasts for aspiring know-it-alls."

Thrice Told Tales. Catherine Lewis. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2013, 6th-8th

Uses the "Three Blind Mice" nursery rhyme to illustrate key elements of writing and literature, including plot, mechanics, foreshadowing, point of view, character, style, and dialogue.

◆Pair this title with:

Twerp by Goldblatt

Scrawl by Shulman