

Biography

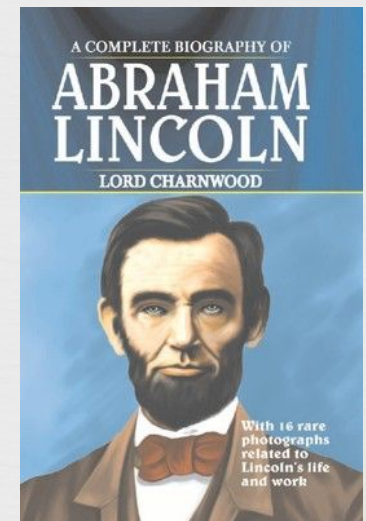


Presented by: Meagan Brewster, Julie
Campbell, Kimberly Emerson, & Caitlin
McDonald

What is a Biography?



- ❧ A specialized variety of **nonfiction** writing that focuses on the lives of human beings
- ❧ Usually about people who are famous
- ❧ NOT written by the person whom the book is about—written by someone else
- ❧ *bio* = life, *graphy* = writing

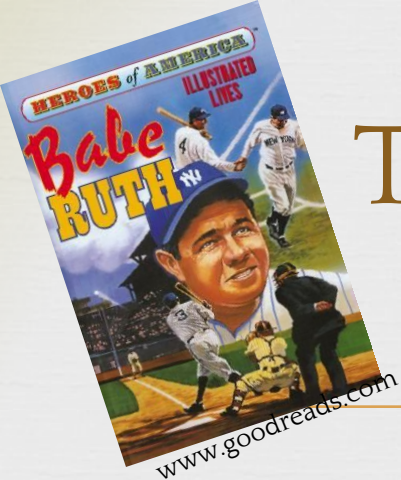


Why are biographies important to read to our students?



- According to Rutgers University,
 - “Literary biographies present only a fragment of a life; but, even then, they often give a sense of wholeness or continuity within a context in their presentations of a life.”

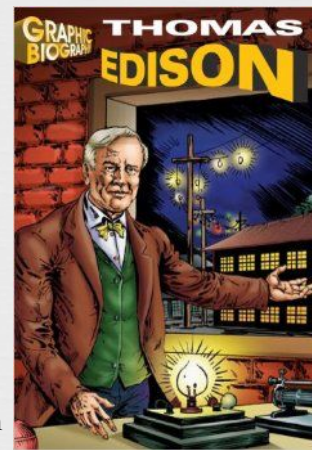




Typical Personalities in Biographies



- ❧ Mainly famous people
 - ❧ Scientists and Inventors (i.e., Thomas Edison or Albert Einstein)
 - ❧ Political leaders (i.e., presidents, kings, queens)
 - ❧ Artists, musicians, actors, authors, etc. (i.e., The Beatles, Mozart)
 - ❧ Sports personalities (i.e., Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson)
 - ❧ Explorers and adventurers (i.e., Christopher Columbus)
 - ❧ Humanitarians (i.e., Jane Addams)
 - ❧ People who overcome tremendous odds (i.e., Helen Keller)
 - ❧ Villains (i.e., Hitler)
 - ❧ Other interesting people



Different Types of Biographies



❧ *Fictionalized biographies*

- ❧ Until the age of new realism in the 1960s, juvenile biographies generally were fictionalized. They are less common today.

❧ *Authentic biographies*

- ❧ Written as true nonfiction, today's trend in biographies

❧ *Autobiographies*

- ❧ When people write about their own lives, provides the unique viewpoint of self-revelation

Different Types of Biographies



❧ *Picture book biographies*

- ❧ Brief and heavily illustrated
- ❧ Provide an overview, focusing on highlights of subject's life

❧ *Simplified biographies*

- ❧ Aimed at newly independent readers and appear as picture books or chapter books, typically with frequent illustrations

❧ *Complete biographies*

- ❧ Purpose is to span the entire life of a subject
- ❧ May be in simplified, picture book, or lengthy chapter book format

Different Types of Biographies



❧ *Partial biographies*

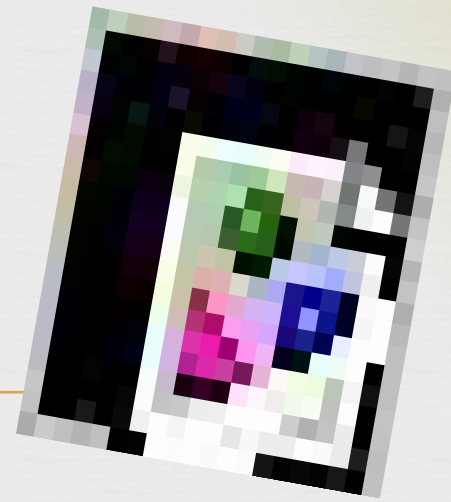
- ❧ More focused purpose than complete biographies
- ❧ Cover only a segment of the subject's life

❧ *Collective biographies*

- ❧ Contain a number of short biographical pieces about subjects who have a common trait
- ❧ Some feature popular personalities, such as athletes, actors, and rock stars



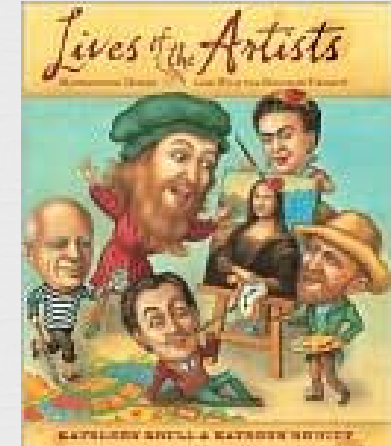
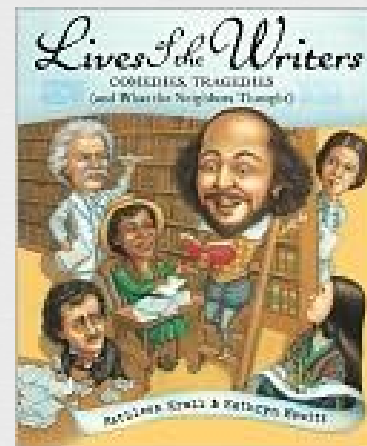
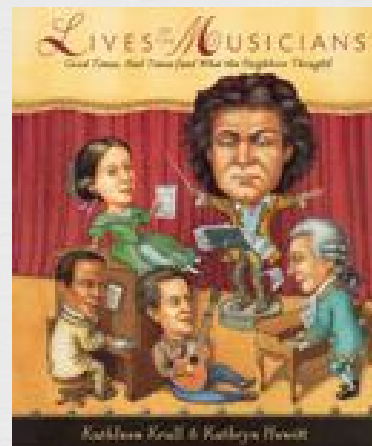
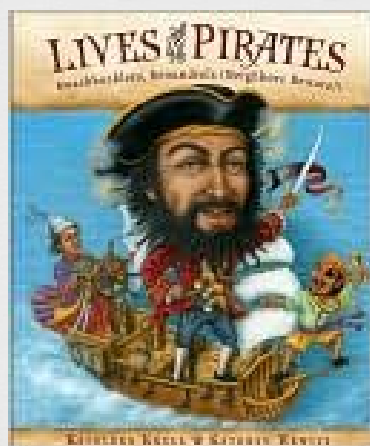
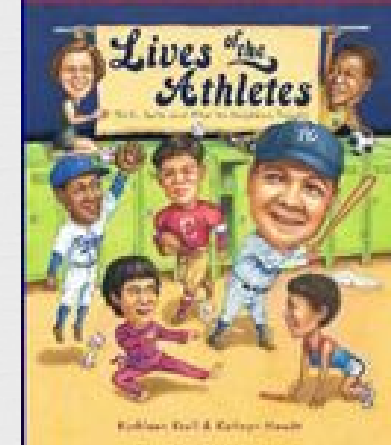
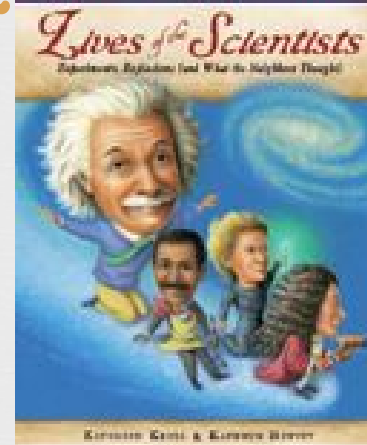
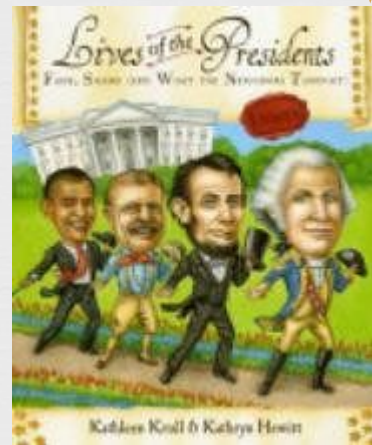
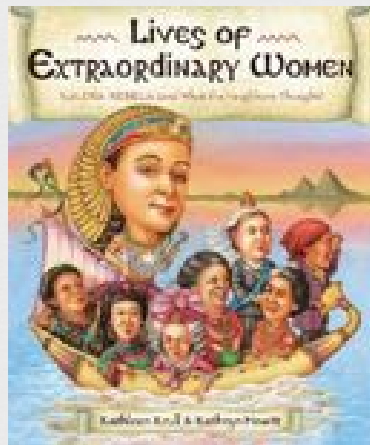
Kathleen Krull



- ❧ Graduated from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin
- ❧ A career in children's publishing
- ❧ Wrote mysteries in the Trixie Belden series, collection of Christmas carols, and 24-book concept series
- ❧ Started working at home and writing books for young people
- ❧ “As a child I thought books were the most important thing in the world, and that perception is actually more intense now. I'm grateful, for so many reasons, to be able to work in a vital and exhilarating field: preserving literacy. One of the benefits of the writing life is that I can't be fired. Especially for reading too much.”
- ❧ Writes biographies because she says she is nosey
 - ❧ “More intellectually, I'm intrigued by the shape and structure of a person's life--the arc, the story of it. As stories, biographies are some of the very best--people have definite beginnings, middles, and demises.”
- ❧ “It would never have come about if I hadn't known Kathryn Hewitt, the artist.”

Kathleen Krull's Books

"Lives of" Series



<http://www.kathleenkrull.com>



Awards



- Boston Globe/Horn Book Honor Award
- PEN West Children's Literature Award
- Society of Children's Book Writers' Golden Kite Award
- Southern California Council on Literature for Children and Young People Award
- ALA Notable Book Award
- Teacher's Choice Award
- Chicago Sun-Times Award
- New Jersey Garden State Children's Award
- Oregonian's Best Children's Books of the Year Award
- Voya's Best Nonfiction of 1998 Award
- Americas Award
- Jane Addams Picture Book Award
- School Library Journal Best Book Award
- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon Award
- ABA's Pick of the Lists
- Parent's Choice Award
- Texas Bluebonnet Award
- Utah Beehive Award
- New York State Reading Association's Charlotte Award
- North Carolina Children's Book Award
- New Mexico Land of Enchantment Book Award
- NSTA/CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book
- Orbis Pictus Award
- Silver Honor Book
- Cybils Awards
- Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year



Potential Lesson Plan



- ☞ Have students make trading cards about famous cultural figures, as with baseball cards.
- ☞ Have students write biographies. Using some of the same methods of “LIVES OF” (warts and all, humor, taking the point of view of a neighbor or bystander), kids can write their own autobiographies, or write portraits of their neighbors, kids in their classroom, teacher, families, their favorite creative person or hero. This activity could be used to teach research skills, especially the all-important one of how to use the library
- ☞ Discussion and Activities to all eight LIVES books.
 - ☞ https://www.scribd.com/doc/135384966/Lives-of-Series-Discussion-and-Activity-Guide?action_object_map=%7B&fb_action_ids=10201890921534161&fb_action_types=og.likes&fb_source=other_multiline

Brad Meltzer



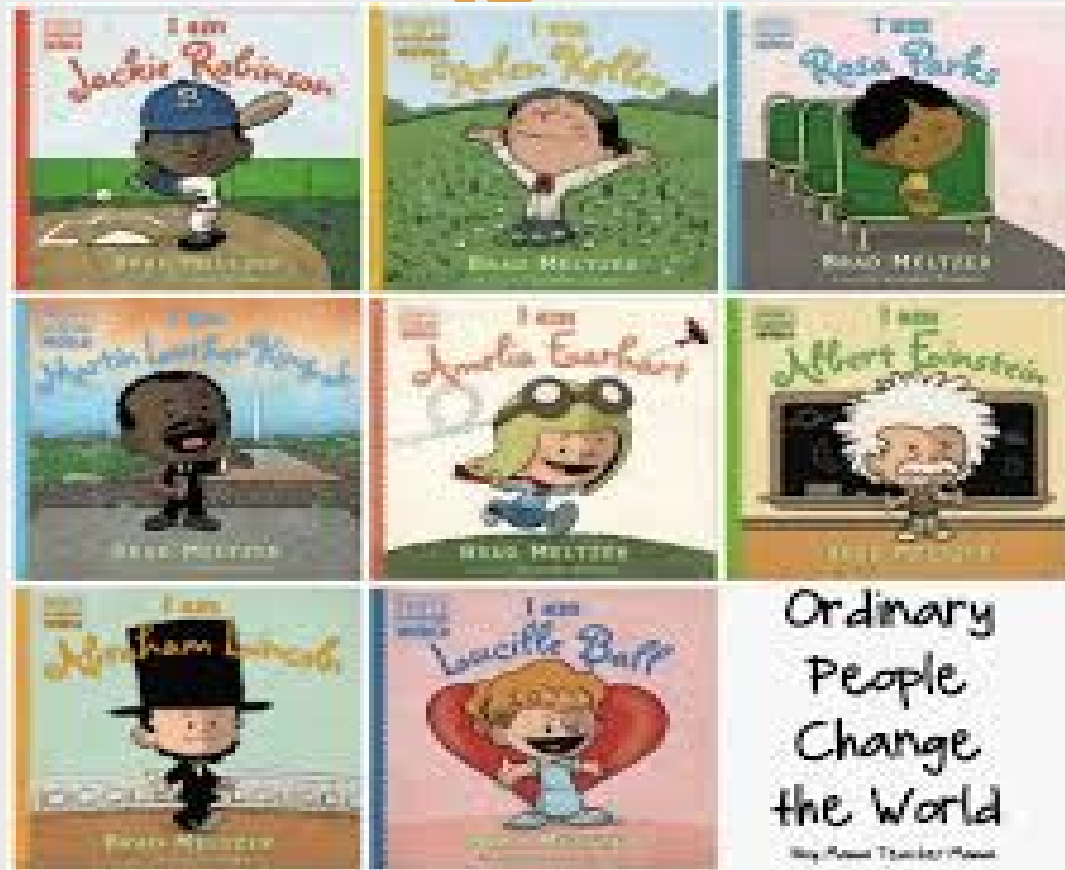
- ❧ Born in New York, later attended the University of Michigan and Columbia Law School
- ❧ Been an author for 15 years, a variety of genres
- ❧ New biographer
- ❧ Author of *Ordinary People Change the World* series (picture book biographies)
 - ❧ Wrote series for his children to teach them what a “real hero was”
 - ❧ “I wanted my kids to see more than princesses and sports figures. I wanted them to see real heroes—Amelia Earhart . . . Abraham Lincoln—real people no different than themselves. For that reason, each book tells the story of a hero when THEY were a kid.”
 - ❧ “Once our kids hear about these real American heroes, they react the same way we all do. They're inspired. They dream bigger. They work harder. Right there, these books were born”.
- ❧ Awards: *New York Times* Bestseller, Eisner Award

Brad Meltzer

Explains his vision behind
Ordinary People Change the World series



Ordinary People Change the World



Ordinary People Change the World website: <http://www.ordinarypeoplechangetheworld.com/index.php>

Inside *I am Helen Keller*



Never losing her patience, my teacher later took me outside.
At a nearby spout, she put my hand under the running water.
In my other hand, she spelled the word.
W-A-T-E-R.



Potential Lesson Plan



- ❧ Have students think about an “ordinary” person they know or consider a hero.
 - ❧ Kindergarten, First Grade: Students draw a picture of their hero and write why they chose the person as their hero (2-5 sentences)
 - ❧ Second-Fifth Grade: Students write a story about their ordinary hero and why he/she is their hero based on their actions. (At least a paragraph)
- ❧ Have students write a letter to a character in the book series: What would you say to your favorite hero? How was our world changed because of them?
- ❧ The following website provides lessons for multiple subjects (language arts, math, science, social studies) based on the series: http://www.timeforkids.com/files/OrdinaryPeopleSeries_Brochure-Teachers.pdf

Doreen Rappaport



- Born in New York City, lived in a home surrounded by music
- Father was musical arranger, and mother was a singer
- Graduated from Brandeis University and became a junior high school music teacher
- 1965, went to McComb, Mississippi to teach in a Freedom school and met “extraordinarily ordinary” people and learned about their oppressions and struggles, and it became her dream to write about American heroes
- Known for approach to multicultural history
- Likes writing about the “not-yet-celebrated”

Doreen Rappaport



“I tell kids you’ve got to find your own voice and take a chance on yourself!”

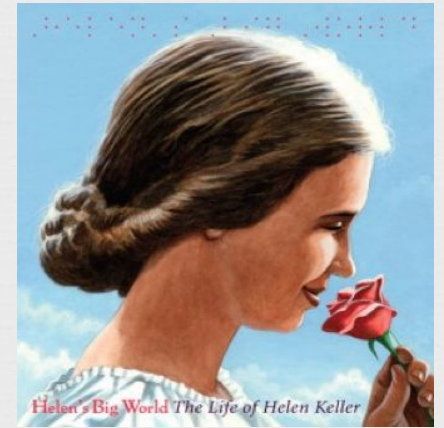
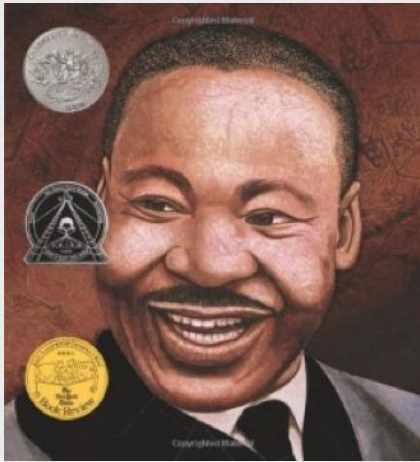
“I only write about one thing: struggle and empowerment. I write about people who make decision- often very difficult ones- to transform their lives and help others transform their lives.”



“I use words from archives, letters, songs, poems, memoirs and court testimony- interwoven with my words- to trace the struggles, fears, hopes, inventive resistances, courage, dignity and celebrate the triumphs of “extraordinary-ordinary people” whose names many of us will never know”

Doreen Rappaport's Books

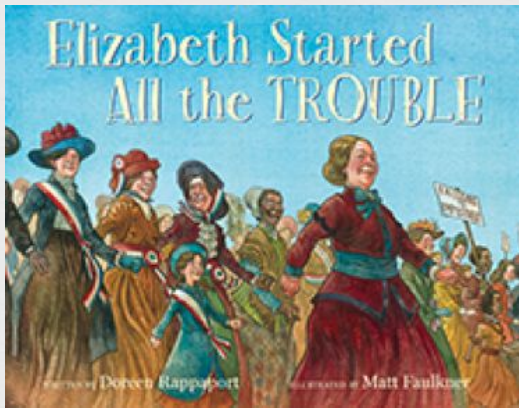
Big Words Series



A sneak preview at an upcoming book...



Elizabeth Started All the Trouble- COMING TO YOU IN JANUARY 2016!!



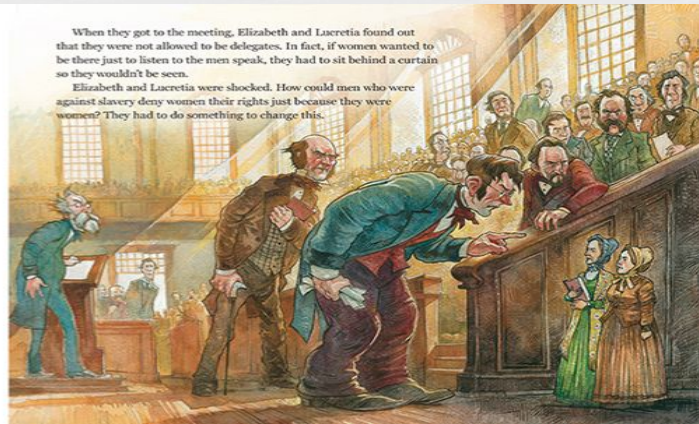
In 1840, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and three other women ignited a movement for women's rights that continues today. Matt Faulkner's humorous illustrations combined with Doreen Rappaport's engaging text provide a picture on the struggle for equal rights for women in this inspiring and often funny book.

In 1840 Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott and their husbands traveled three thousand miles across the ocean to London. They were meeting people from all over the world who were working as hard as they were to end slavery.



When they got to the meeting, Elizabeth and Lucretia found out that they were not allowed to be delegates. In fact, if women wanted to be there just to listen to the men speak, they had to sit behind a curtain so they wouldn't be seen.

Elizabeth and Lucretia were shocked. How could men who were against slavery deny women their rights just because they were women? They had to do something to change this.

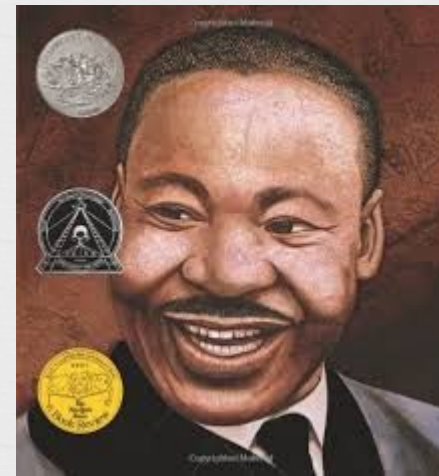




Awards



- Children's Choice Book 2012
- The Washington Post Children's Book Guild Award for Lifetime Achievement
- Featured author at the National Portrait Gallery, National Book Festival, Smithsonian Museum of American History and the White House
- For Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Coretta Scott King Award
 - Caldecott Honor Book
 - Orbis Pictus Honor Book
 - Jane Addams Children's Book Award
 - Given annually to children's books published the year before that effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and all the races
- Numerous Awards for most of her books



Potential Lesson Plan



Freedom River, about John Parker, a freed slave who uses the Underground railroad (Pre-K- 3)

-Social Studies: Ask your grandparents, parents, teachers or neighbors to tell you a story about a brave act by someone they know. Write that story!

- Language Arts: Write a letter to one of the characters in the book, and tell them about what you learned from them. Make sure to discuss the vocabulary words: slavery, freedom, escape, underground railroad

Martin's Big Words: The story of Martin Luther King Jr.

Have the students brainstorm a list of words that are meaningful to them, and create a list of their own "big" words. Once they have a list of words, narrow it down to the top 5 that are the most important to them. Have them provide a reason for choosing their word in a short sentence and illustrate it. Create their own "Big Words Book" with the provided template. http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/bigwords_book/big_book_template.p

Using any, or multiple of Doreen's Books, create a "History Lives project" where each student is assigned a book, and must dress up as, and come up with a personal speech portraying the character from the book. They will use details from the book and outside references in order to develop their character and accurately portray their important details

Activity



- Pick a book from your table and look through it.
 - Name/Author of the book:
 - Do you like this book? Why or why not?
 - Is it a potential read aloud book, or would it be better as a selection in a classroom library?
 - How could you use this book in your future classroom? (i.e., lesson plans, activities, etc.)

Annotated Bibliographies



Asim, J. (2012). *Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington*. New York, NY: Little, Brown and Company.

Jabari Asim depicts Booker T. Washington's early life as a slave and his desire to obtain an education specifically to learn to read and write. Washington experienced many hardships to become the influential educator in which he is remembered. *Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington* contains beautiful collage images which add to the experience of the story.

Grimes, N. (2008). *Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

This version of Barack Obama's life is compressed and simplified for young readers. Through Barack Obama's journeys, he found the ability to listen to hope and become a bridge to bring people together. Barack Obama has motivated Americans to believe with him that every one of us has the power to change ourselves and the world.

Krull, K. (1993). *Lives of the Musicians: Good Times, Bad Times (and What the Neighbors Thought)*. San Diego, New York, and London: HMH Books for Young Readers.

"It's no secret that Beethoven went deaf, that Mozart had constant money problems, and the Gilbert and Sullivan wrote musicals. But what were these people—and other famous musicians—really like?" Kathleen Krull goes beyond the classic musicians and how they came to be by telling their secrets. Such as, what they eat, wear, how they spent their time, what they were like as children, their phobias, obsessions, and bad habits.

Krull, K. (2003). *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*. San Diego: Harcourt, Inc.

Cesar Chavez was one of America's most inspiring civil rights leaders. He led a three hundred and forty mile protest to improve the lives of migrant farmworkers. Chavez was a shy boy and was often teased at school but was very smart. He wanted to make a change as he grew older, so he spoke up and the entire country listened to what he had to say and how he was going to change the lives of the farmworkers.

Annotated Bibliographies



Krull, K. (2007). *Marie Curie*. New York, NY: Penguin Young Readers Group.

The author presents the life of Marie Curie in a chapter book through her *Giants of Science* series. Marie Curie coined the term radioactivity and won two Nobel Prizes in physics and chemistry, both which are considered male dominated fields of study.

Krull, K. (2011). *Jim Henson: The Guy Who Played with Puppets*. New York, NY: Random House Books for Young Readers.

What do you want to be when you grow up? Well Jim Henson always wanted to play with puppets. His career started when he was sixteen with his best friend, creating puppets and putting on a puppet show on TV. People all over the world fell in love with Kermit the Frog, Big Bird, and Miss Piggy. This book expresses how Jim Henson wanted to bring happiness to all by using puppets.

Krull, K. (2013). *Lives of Extraordinary Women: Rulers, Rebels (and What the Neighbors Thought)*. San Diego, New York, and London: HMH Books for Young Readers.

Men have always been appreciated and accepted as government rulers but this biography demonstrates how women have power just as much as men. Kathleen Krull demonstrate twenty women (queens, warriors, prime ministers, first ladies, revolutionary leaders) with extraordinary lives that have made part of history.

Krull, K. (2014). *Lives of the Explorers: Discoveries, Disasters (and What the Neighbors Thought)*. Boston, NY: HMH Books for Young Readers.

We all know the importance of the expeditions in which great explorers explored and their quests but that's it. Kathleen Krull goes beyond the twenty explorers and their quest but instead by explaining what they were really like, how they were when they were children, what drove their passion to explore, and how this has shaped our world today.

Annotated Bibliographies

Meltzer, B. (2015). *I am Helen Keller*. New York, NY:Dial Books for Young Readers.

Meltzer creates an interactive experience for the reader in *I am Helen Keller*. At a young age, Keller developed a disease which permanently impaired her hearing and vision. With strong dedication and the help of her teacher Anne Sullivan, Helen Keller learns to communicate with others through hand gestures and speech. She later learns to read with the use of Braille. She dedicated her life to helping others and expanding her education. In addition to telling the life of Helen Keller, the book includes a page with Braille.

Meltzer, B. (2015). *I am Jackie Robinson*. New York, NY:Dial Books for Young Readers.

I am Jackie Robinson depicts Jackie Robinson's journey to play Major League Baseball during the Civil Rights Movement. Through perseverance and hardwork, Robinson became the first African-American player in baseball. His bravery helped lead the way for equality in sports throughout America. The biography falls Robinson through his life and is told in his perspective.



Rappaport, D., & Collier, B. (2001). *Martin's big words: The life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* New York: Hyperion Books for Children.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a very influential man, during the Civil Rights movement, and continues to be important today. This biographical look at his life, takes a closer look into the immortal words that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke and his profound impact he had on society. He made a focus to use "big words" that are simple and direct, but poetic every since he was younger and continued through his "I have a dream" speech.

Annotated Bibliographies



Rappaport, D., & Collier, B. (2004). *John's secret dreams: The life of John Lennon*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children.

John Lennon had a largely influential role in the world of rock and entertainment through his music in the Beatles. He was from England, and came to the United States, to make a profound impact on the culture. This biography takes a look into his life, background and his views on life through his experiences and personal beliefs. With his lyrics strung throughout the book, readers get a deeper understanding of this performer/composer.

Rappaport, D., & Tavares, M. (2012). *Helen's big world: The life of Helen Keller*. New York: Disney/Hyperion Books.

Helen Keller, both blind and deaf, is an influential figure who inspired many with her story and her vision and innovation changed America. One of her greatest accomplishments, was learning how to speak, and this story brings Helen's dynamism into the story, while explaining her life and struggles she had to endure. Her tenacity and aspirations allowed Helen to achieve many great things.

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