



# Recommended Book List For Secondary Schools January 2023



## Fiction Books

### **Armadas in the Mist (Empire of the House of Thorns)**

**Author:** Christian Klaver  
**Publisher:** CamCat Publishing  
**Interest age:** 13+  
**Reading age:** 13+  
**ISBN:** 978-0744305173  
**Pages:** 506

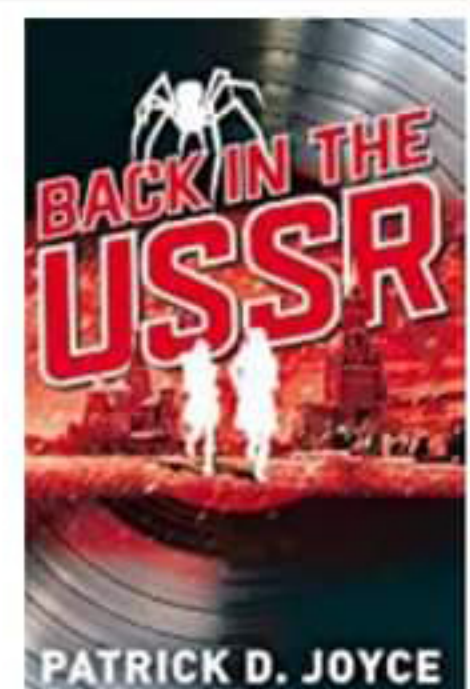


#### **Review**

Captain Justice Kasric knows how complicated family can be. The escalating Human-Faerie war has scattered and wounded her siblings and transformed her parents beyond recognition. After narrowly escaping yet another dangerous clash, fifteen-year-old Justice has had enough. She's determined to defeat the Black Shuck, the mysterious leader controlling the Faerie invasion of London, but if Justice hopes to stand a chance at victory, she'll have to do the impossible: reunite her family and lead them against the looming Faerie Armada. With her mother and brother at the helm of the enemy fleet, and the prophesized Seven Virtues slipping out of reach, Justice more than has her work cut out for her. Even if she can save England, the cost may be higher than she's willing to pay.

### **Back in the USSR**

**Author:** Patrick D. Joyce  
**Publisher:** Spy Bond Press  
**Interest age:** 12+  
**Reading age:** 12+  
**ISBN:** 978-8986169910  
**Pages:** 326



#### **Review**

When Harrison George, teenage son of American diplomats, arrives in Cold War Moscow for winter break, he plans to daydream and hang out with his friend Prudence Akobo, street-smart daughter of foreign correspondents. Instead, he and Prudence stumble onto the trail of the Album, a long lost Beatles relic and priceless symbol of freedom in a country where rock music is banned. Chased by treasure hunters, gangsters and spies, they don't know who to trust. If they don't find the Album first, they could end up missing - or dead - themselves. Harrison and Prudence face a choice. Will they be pawns in a game of global conflict, or can they help a maverick KGB agent on a mission of personal redemption?

## Bixby Timmons and the Secrets of Shadow Deep

**Author:** Dwight Karkan

**Publisher:** Tiny Fox Press

**Interest age:** 13-15

**Reading age:** 13-15

**ISBN:** 978-1946501523

**Pages:** 286



### Review

Bixby Timmons is on to Level Two, still looking to find Cody Dragonthorp and hopefully claim the \$100 million prize. The game she's in now leads her to a mysterious island castle where she must again enter a battle of wits with fierce competitors who not only want to win the prize for themselves, but who will do anything to do so--including making sure Bixby never leaves the island alive.

Does Bixby have what it takes to reach the finish?

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## Boy in the Blue Hammock

**Author:** Darren Groth

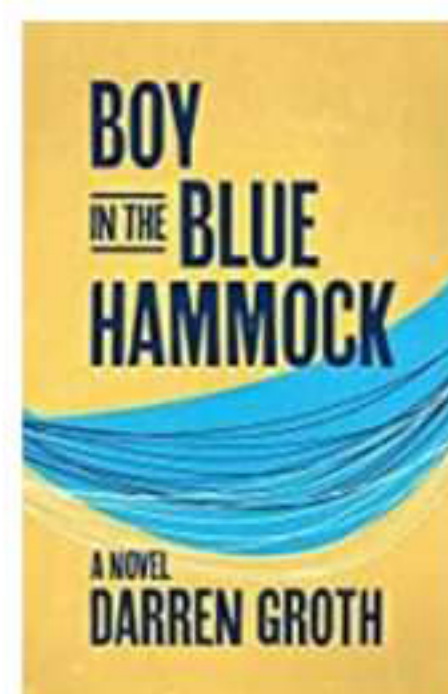
**Publisher:** Nightwood Editions

**Interest age:** 12+

**Reading age:** 12+

**ISBN:** 978-0889714267

**Pages:** 208



### Review

In a time of isolation and scarcity, a regressive regime rules with absolute power, turning neighbour against neighbour and crushing dissidence with deadly force. A microcosm of this monstrous time: the tiny Pacific Northwest town of Gilder.

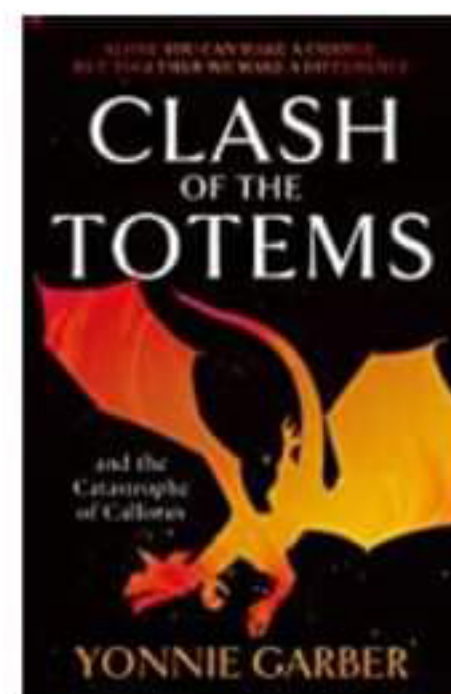
In a house on the fringes of the decimated hamlet, Tao--a failed service dog turned pet--wakes to find his leash tied to the stairs, his hind leg broken and his family killed. With the world he knows shattered, there is one course of action: lay with his slain masters and wait for the enemy--the "hounds"--to return and end his life. But it is not the hounds that find him--it is Kasper, fifteen years old, disabled, limited ability to speak, sole survivor of the family. With the discovery of *Boy*, Tao understands he now has a duty: guide the last living member of his pack through the ravaged streets of Gilder to safety. The destination? The only refuge he can conceive in a world gone mad? The site of his training five years before.

*Boy in the Blue Hammock* is an epic tale of loss and loyalty, of dissent and destruction, of assumption and ableism. With a powerful narrative and evocative prose, the novel poses one of the important questions of our time: When evil silences the people, who will protect those without a voice?

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## Clash of the Totems and the Catastrophe of Callistus (Book 2)

**Author:** Yonnie Garber  
**Publisher:** Matador  
**Interest age:** 11+  
**Reading age:** 11+  
**ISBN:** 978-1803134840  
**Pages:** 224



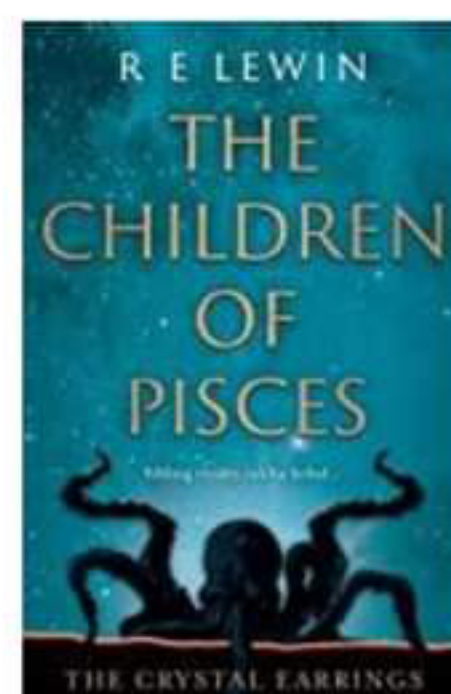
### Review

Join Ellery in her second year at the Quinton Earth Science School as one by one, another friend goes missing — lost without a trace. But Ellery is also on the verge of losing herself. Unable to cope with being the chosen one to bring back balance to Mother Earth, she's hell-bent on scorning those that love her most. Conflicted about her feelings, and considering the prospect of siding with the most nefarious person on the planet, she blatantly disobeys her teachers, leading her closest classmates into jeopardy. Now she must battle with nature's most powerful totem and risk losing everything to save her friends - but will she ultimately give away humanity's last chance to remain on the planet in the process?

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## The Crystal Earrings (The Children of Pisces, Book 2)

**Author:** R.E. Lewin  
**Publisher:** Matador  
**Interest age:** 12+  
**Reading age:** 12+  
**ISBN:** 978-1803135083  
**Pages:** 264



### Review

No weapon could help them now. It's 2070 and Earth's post-pandemic world is different. Mikie, Tammy and Mina are half human and half alien siblings, with unique abilities and crystal weapons. Their powers are extraordinary alone, but together they are unstoppable. Mikie and Tammy race to save their sister Mina from a dark and twisted enemy, but can they save her from her own inner darkness? Can Mina be trusted or is she more dangerous than their adversary? Sibling rivalry can be lethal...

Hybrid children, lacking powers like the children of Pisces, are trapped on a spaceship and subjected to harsh experiments. Will they be saved or devoured by the terrifying creatures in the black water? The battle for Earth is far from over. Get ready for part two of this epic adventure series that will have you biting your nails, holding your breath and send your heart soaring.

# Keeper of the Hour Glass: The Crimson Manifest (Book 3)

**Author:** G. L. Garrett

**Publisher:** Black Rose Writing

**Interest age:** 13+

**Reading age:** 13+

**ISBN:** 978-1685130619

**Pages:** 251



## Review

Apius is gone, but his legacy lives on with a brother's promise. Because of this promise, humanity is on the verge of extinction. Famine has swept across the globe as a mysterious pathogen is destroying the world's food supply. Even though agroterrorism is suspected, FBI Special Agent Peter Nichols knows there is much more to this.

Haunted by his long-forgotten past, he hunts for answers — answers hidden deep below an ancient Ceiba tree in the heart of Mexico. Here, protected by a deadly maze of tunnels, is a mythical temple. According to legend, this temple serves as a gateway to the afterlife. It is here where Peter must travel in order to stop the eradication, and Apius's brother, Ezekial. But how does one stop the dead?

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## The Key Holders

**Author:** Rose R. Yarom

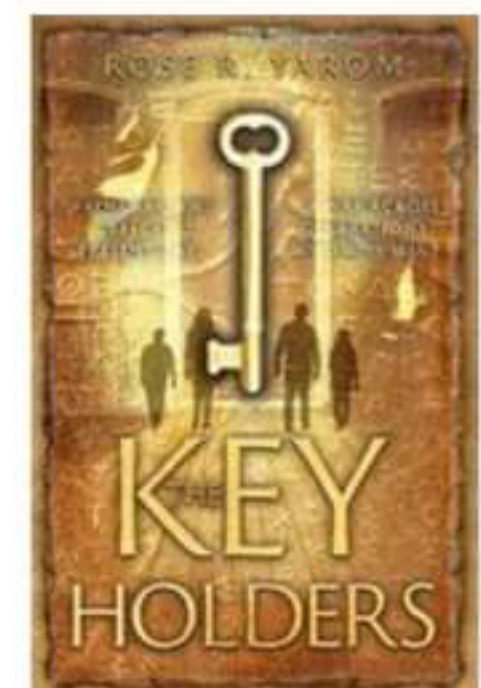
**Publisher:** Matador

**Interest age:** 12+

**Reading age:** 12+

**ISBN:** 978-1803132891

**Pages:** 352



## Review

Torn from their everyday lives, Princess Crete and her infant twin children, Asterion and Asteria, are forced to flee the murderous wrath of her half-brother, Minos. Lost to the wilderness, they finally discover a new home lying far to the north of the known ancient world, where the realm of Thulium is founded. After centuries of harmonious and peaceful existence under the protection of The Powers, two factions arise to contest the rulership: 'The Black Kites', led by Thulia, and 'The Red Boars', led by her twin brother Thulias. Thulium is destroyed and what few survivors there are scatter.

But it doesn't end there. Thulia and Thulias' descendants confront each other through the ages in a seemingly never-ending power struggle. Who will win? Rumour holds that a winning hand will only be dealt to those who hold the remaining heirlooms of the lost realm: The Key, The Sword of Sovereignty and The Banner. These are kept hidden and passed down in each generation by the descendants of the Guardians, formerly counsellors to the Thulian rulers, representatives of The Powers, and now keepers of the Ancient Thulian history and traditions. Can these relics be found by the right side and used to win this never-ending destruction?

# Leigh Howard and the Ghost of Simmons-Pierce Manor

**Author:** Shawn M. Warner  
**Publisher:** Black Rose Writing  
**Interest age:** 13+  
**Reading age:** 13+  
**ISBN:** 978-1685130732  
**Pages:** 263



## Review

Leigh's life has been ripped apart.

Orphaned, she goes to live with incredibly wealthy relatives she never knew she had. Struggling to fit into her new world, she can't let go of her grief. When the police tell her the investigation into her parents' murder has hit a brick wall, she knows the only way she will ever know peace is to solve the mystery herself. With new family and friends, which includes a ghost with multiple personality issues, Leigh risks everything to find her answers.

Join Leigh on her adventure through the brutal world of organized crime and betrayal.

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# Rise Up From the Embers

**Authors:** Sara Raasch & Kristen Simmons  
**Publisher:** BalzerBray  
**Interest age:** 13+  
**Reading age:** 13+  
**ISBN:** 978-0062891600  
**Pages:** 352



## Review

Two gods are dead. The Mother Goddess has returned. War is rising.

Fleeing the ruins of Deimos, Ash and Madoc sail across the ocean toward their only possible allies: the water and plant gods. But when Anathrasa attacks on the way, Ash leaps to the defense—by using a power she didn't know she had.

When Madoc made the fire and earth gods mortal, he inadvertently transferred their magic to Ash. Now, if Ash can get energieas from the other four gods, she will be powerful enough to end Anathrasa once and for all.

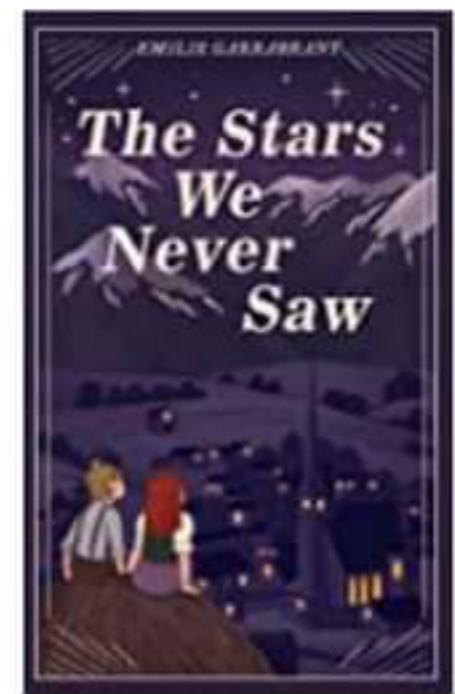
But not all the gods want the Mother Goddess defeated. To stop her, Madoc will have to become the obedient son his mother always wanted, and Ash will have to take a merciless place among the gods.

To defeat an immortal, Ash and Madoc must fight like gods—even if it means sacrificing their humanity.

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## The Stars We Never Saw

**Author:** Emilie Garrabrant  
**Publisher:** Emilie Garrabrant  
**Interest age:** 13+  
**Reading age:** 13+  
**ISBN:** 978-8986675701  
**Pages:** 266



### Review

Growing up in Vienna in the 1930s, Ilse Stadler has the typical dreams and questions of any child- how she fits into the world, what her purpose is, and who the mysterious woman who lives next door is. Her curiosities about the stars above her and the shapes of the constellations are all answered by her father's exciting bedtime stories. Ilse goes into hiding after the Anschluss, when the Nazis invade and take her parents away.

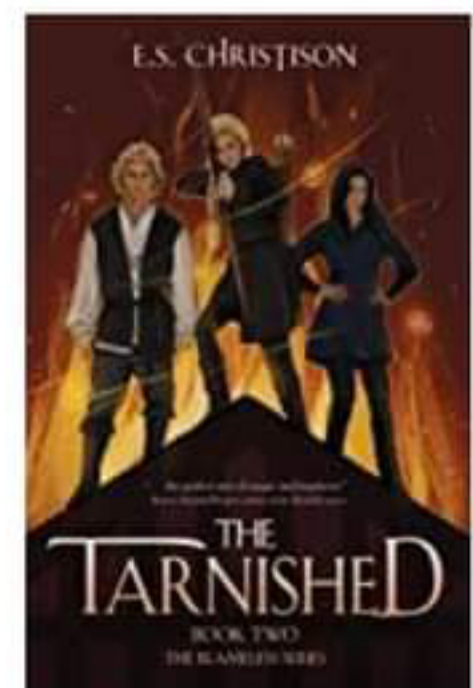
Unbeknownst to Ilse, her father has crafted an escape plan for her, and she is whisked away to a small town in the Alps by the name of Maria Alm. In the town, Ilse tries to continue her life as normal- she bonds with her host, Aunt Gisela, and befriends a fun-loving girl named Greta, while grappling with feelings of betrayal to her old life. She's not a country girl, she's a city girl. She's the gleeful red-haired girl that plays with her father at the park. Right?

But soon, Ilse discovers a Jewish boy hiding in a barn on the hill behind her new home with whom she quickly connects and cares for. And after the town is searched for hidden Jews, it is clear he needs a safe place to live. As the Nazis begin to take control of Austria, Ilse must rely on her courage and wit to protect those she loves- and keep hope that she will one day find herself against all odds.

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## The Tarnished (2)

**Author:** E.S. Christison  
**Publisher:** Wildling Press  
**Interest age:** 11+  
**Reading age:** 11+  
**ISBN:** 978-1957833040  
**Pages:** 372



### Review

Princess Briana has escaped imprisonment and is on the run. Her beloved Predonia is in upheaval as the villainous Vaylec tightens his grip on the Blameless, tearing the kingdom apart in search of the girl who's evaded him.

To regain her people's freedom, Brie must turn her back on her friends and her new home as she and her uncles race to uncover the secrets of Vaylec's mysterious and growing power. There is no safety nor rest for the usurped heir to the throne, and Brie must dig deep inside herself for strength to take action as her world crumbles around her.

## Thunderbird (Book Two)

**Authors:** Sonia Nimr & M. Lynx Qualey

**Publisher:** University of Texas Press

**Interest age:** 11+

**Reading age:** 11+

**ISBN:** 978-1477326930

**Pages:** 152



### Review

*The Thunderbird* trilogy is a fast-paced time-traveling fantasy adventure centered on Noor, a young orphaned Palestinian girl who starts in the present and must go back in time to get four magical bird feathers and save the world.

In this second installment, Noor finds herself in the year 1177 in Jerusalem, during the Crusades. With the help of Sabeeka, Zainab, a girl who has the power to become invisible, and her local resistance group, Noor must once again find a feather belonging to the thunderbird before it burns, in order to prevent the world of the djinn from collapsing into the human world. Along the way, Noor helps the resistance group save hundreds of books and manuscripts from being burned. Like the first book in the *Thunderbird* trilogy, Book Two combines the magical with real events from Palestinian history to take the reader on a wild and adventurous ride through time.

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## Voyage North (Strong Winds Series, Book 7)

**Author:** Julia Jones

**Publisher:** Golden Duck

**Interest age:** 13+

**Reading age:** 13+

**ISBN:** 978-1899262540

**Pages:** 308



### Review

It's the summer of 2012. In Russia, the newly-elected President is tightening his grip on power while the UK focusses on preparations for the Olympics.

Donny has dropped out of school, left Strong Winds, and is heading north on an oligarch's superyacht with a canister of toxic waste. His journey will take him across the Arctic Circle and into the Barents Sea. Here he may find answers to questions that have troubled him all his life — and others which he has never thought to ask.

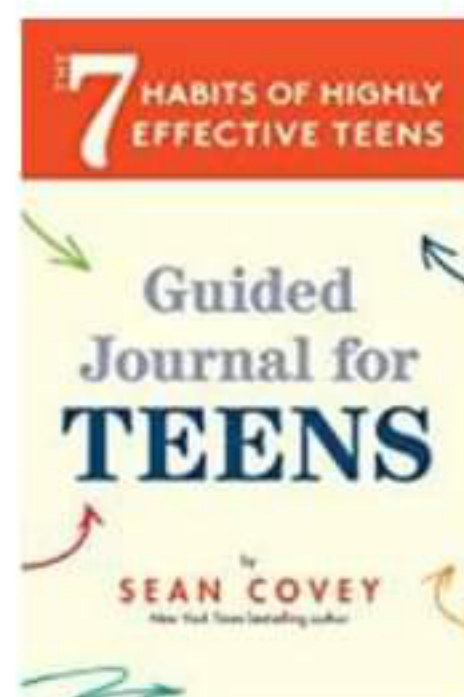
But who will he meet on the way and can he ever return to the life he has left behind?

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## Information Books

### **The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens: Guided Journal**

**Author:** Sean Covey  
**Publisher:** Mango  
**Interest age:** 12+  
**Reading age:** 12+  
**ISBN:** 978-1684811731  
**Pages:** 240



#### **Review**

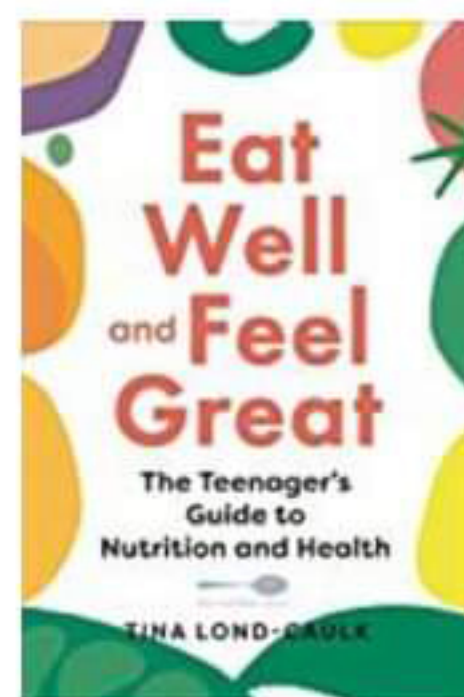
Goal setting just got easier. When *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* was released as a card deck, a whole new approach to Stephen R. Covey's time-tested principles was born. Now, this companion *Guided Journal for Teens* offers teens and young adults another way to turn inspiration into action. Its concise format is accessible and easy to stick with. Each habit is broken down into a weekly format inspiring both beginners and seasoned 7 Habits readers to get motivated, build confidence, and boost inspiration and personal growth.

Cultivate success, skill, and self-growth. Featuring thought-provoking prompts, worksheets, and self-development quotes that show you how to achieve your goals, this is the ultimate guided self-growth journal for teens and young adults.

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### **Eat Well and Feel Good: The Teenager's Guide to Nutrition and Health**

**Author:** Tina Lond-Caulk  
**Publisher:** Green Tree  
**Interest age:** 13+  
**Reading age:** 13+  
**ISBN:** 978-1399401944  
**Pages:** 240



#### **Review**

This easy-to-use and friendly handbook for teenagers will help you learn how to develop a healthy and loving relationship with food and your body, for life. Packed with helpful tips, advice and recipes, in an easy-to-digest format.

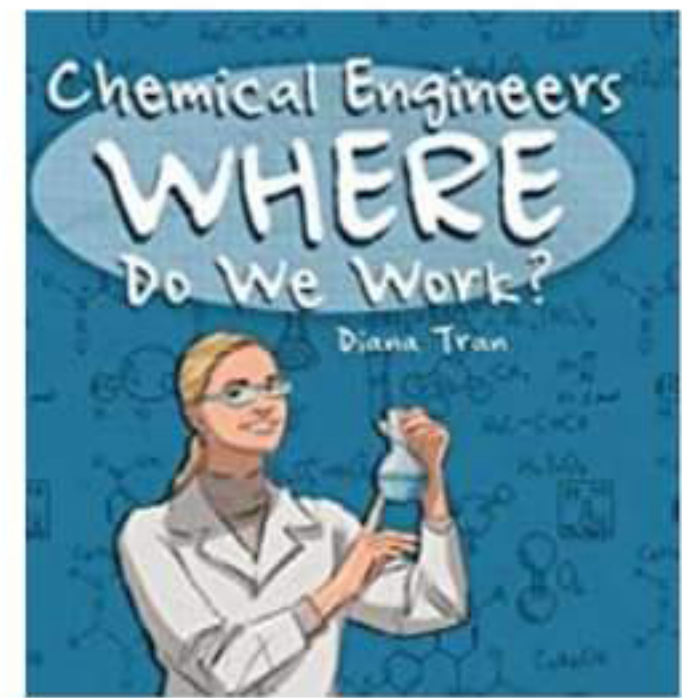
In no time at all you can dramatically improve the way you feel by making better choices with your food and lifestyle habits. *Eat Well and Feel Great* shows you how simple changes can have profound effects on your self-confidence and well-being, helping you to improve your mood, reduce stress and anxiety, sleep better and focus more, maintain a healthy weight and much more!

Written by an expert nutritionist with over 20 years' experience, the book features case studies from the author's clinical work with young people. With a selection of quick and easy recipes, you'll learn how simple it is to nourish your brain and body with key nutrients. Educating young people on the importance of good nutrition is vital and the bedrock for good health in later life.



# Chemical Engineers: Where Do We Work?

**Author:** Diana Tran  
**Publisher:** NHDTran  
**Interest age:** 13+  
**Reading age:** 13+  
**ISBN:** 978-0645239829  
**Pages:** 36



## Review

Chemical engineering is one of the most sublime engineering disciplines. It is an extremely important and influential profession on the development of civilization.

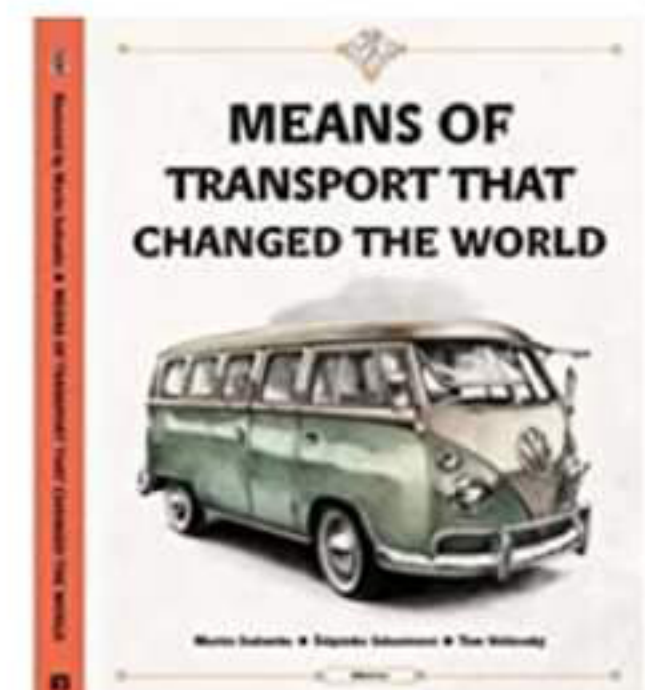
From the creation of ancient pottery (100 centuries ago) to plaster (40 centuries ago), then paper (20 centuries ago), and Portland cement that is hugely used to make concrete (2 centuries ago). Even though chemical engineering is a significant field essential for the development and optimisation of most products in the world, not many people know what it is, let alone the work of a chemical engineer, which is more than just designing processes to change raw materials into valuable products.

This book aims to provide a snapshot of the diverse works that a chemical engineer does. We solve problems to improve our everyday quality of life.

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# Means of Transport that Changed the World

**Authors:** Tom Velcovsky, Stepania Sekaninova, illustrated by Martin Sodomka  
**Publisher:** Albatross Media  
**Interest age:** 12+  
**Reading age:** 12+  
**ISBN:** 978-8000063553  
**Pages:** 64



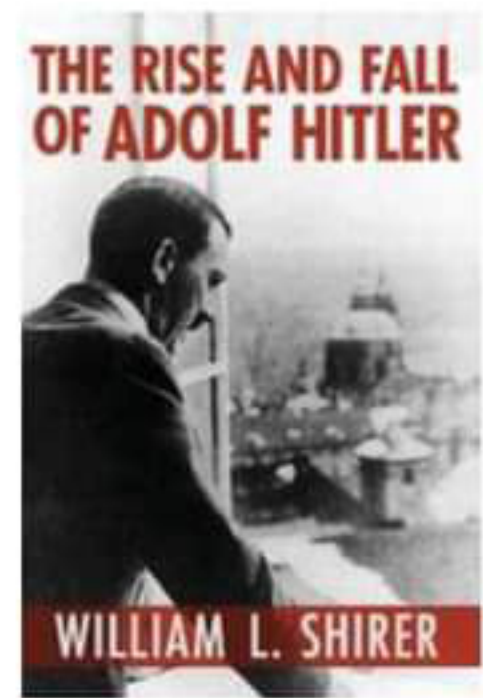
## Review

We start our journey on boats and we end up in the space. A history of transport told by terrific illustrations.

Travel back with us as we explore the world's most important milestones in the development of travel and transportation. From little-noticed ideas that launched a technological revolution, through expeditions that reached for the stars, to tragedies that ended vast projects once and for all. As this book will show, every ending stands at the beginning of something new. Take a ride with us on the fastest, greatest, most awesome, most controversial machines that moved humanity forward.

# The Rise and Fall of Hitler

**Author:** William L. Shirer  
**Publisher:** RosettaBooks  
**Interest age:** 12+  
**Reading age:** 12+  
**ISBN:** 978-0795300349  
**Pages:** 80



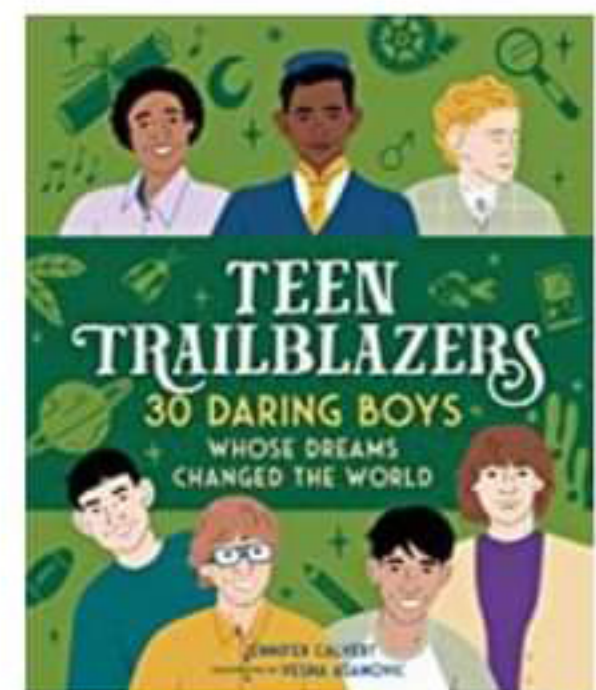
## Review

American journalist and author William L. Shirer was a correspondent for six years in Nazi Germany and had a front-row seat to Hitler's mounting influence. His most definitive work on the subject, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, is a riveting account defined by first-person experience interviewing Hitler, watching his impassioned speeches, and living in a country transformed by war and dictatorship.

Shirer was originally commissioned to write *The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler* for a young adult audience. This account loses none of the immediacy of *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*-capturing Hitler's ascendance from obscurity, the horror of Nazi Germany's mass killings, and the paranoia and insanity that marked the führer's downfall. This book is by no means simplified - and is sure to appeal to adults as well as young people with an interest in World War II history.

# Teen Trailblazers: 30 Daring Boys Whose Dreams Changed the World

**Author:** Jennifer Calvert  
**Publisher:** Castle Point Books  
**Interest age:** 12+  
**Reading age:** 12+  
**ISBN:** 978-1250281616  
**Pages:** 128



## Review

Teen boys need role models and encouragement more than ever, and *Teen Trailblazers: Boys Who Dared* highlights 30 young men who acted with kindness, strength, and courage on their paths to greatness.

From Louis Braille, who invented the Braille System of reading when he was 15, to Suhas Gopinath, who became the world's youngest global company CEO at 17, the boys profiled in this book are racially and socioeconomically diverse, from around the world, throughout history, and across dozens of disciplines, to give a broad picture of teen boy success.