Mount Vernon High School Schoology
Weekly Books Highlights

The Women History Month Series

“No matter how difficult and painful it may be, nothing sounds as good to the soul as the truth.” - Martha Beck

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race

By Margot Lee Shetterly

Overview
The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America’s greatest
achievements in space. Now a major motion picture starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monae, Kirsten Dunst, and Kevin Costner.

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.


By Melissa Fleming

Overview

The extraordinary true story of one teen refugee’s quest to find a new life—now adapted for young readers

A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea tells the story of Doaa Al-Zamel, a Syrian girl whose life was upended in 2011 by her country’s brutal civil war. She and her family escape to Egypt, but
life soon quickly becomes dangerous for Syrians in that country. Doaa and her fiancé decide to flee to Europe to seek safety and an education, but four days after setting sail on a smuggler’s dilapidated fishing vessel along with five hundred other refugees, their boat is struck and begins to sink...

My Beloved World
By Sonia Sotomayor

Overview
The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor has become an instant American icon. Now, with a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting Justice, she recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself.
Here is the story of a precarious childhood, with an alcoholic father (who would die when she was nine) and a devoted but overburdened mother, and of the refuge a little girl took from the turmoil at home with her passionately spirited paternal grandmother. But it was when she was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes that the precocious Sonia recognized she must ultimately depend on herself.

The Life of Bessie Coleman
By Connie Plantz

Overview
In the early 1900s, Bessie Coleman dreamed of flying—but racial bigotry and gender bias threatened to keep her grounded. Denied entrance to flight training school in the United States, Coleman traveled to Europe. She returned, triumphant, as the world's first African-American woman with a pilot's license. Author Connie
Plantz captures all the tension and excitement of Bessie Coleman's soaring achievements. Determined to open a flight sell for other African Americans, "Brave Bessie" raised funds as a stunt pilot, thrilling crowds of spectators with her aerial tricks. Coleman's life ended in a tragic accident, but not before her dream of flight made aviation history.

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
By Irin Carmon, Shana Knizhnik

Overview
Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg never asked for fame—she has only tried to make the world a little better and a little freer.

But nearly a half-century into her career, something funny happened to the octogenarian: she won the internet. Across America, people who weren't even born when Ginsburg first made
her name as a feminist pioneer are tattooing themselves with her face, setting her famously searing dissents to music, and making viral videos in tribute.

*Notorious RBG*, inspired by the Tumblr that amused the Justice herself and brought to you by its founder and an award-winning feminist journalist, is more than just a love letter. It draws on intimate access to Ginsburg's family members, close friends, colleagues, and clerks, as well an interview with the Justice herself.

**When I Was Puerto Rican by Esmeralda Santiago**

**Summary & Study Guide**

By [BookRags](http://www.bookrags.com)

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**Overview**

Esmeralda Santiago's story begins in rural Puerto Rico, where her childhood was full of both tenderness and domestic strife, tropical sounds and sights as well as poverty. Growing up, she learned the proper way to eat a guava, the sound of tree frogs in the mango groves at night, the taste of the delectable sausage called...
morcilla, and the formula for ushering a dead baby's soul to heaven.

As she enters school, we see the clash, both hilarious and fierce, of Puerto Rican and Yankee culture. When her mother, Mami, a force of nature, takes off to New York with her seven, soon to be eleven children, Esmeralda, the oldest, must learn new rules, a new language, and eventually take on a new identity.

**Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter**  
(Turtleback School & Library Binding Edition)  
By Adeline Yen [Hyperlink](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/%22Adeline%20Yen%20Mah%22?Ntk=P_key_Contributor_List&Ns=P_Sales_Rank&Ntx=mode+matchall)

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**Overview**

The daughter of a wealthy Hong Kong businessman describes her very difficult childhood and the psychological abuse she suffered at the hands of her stepmother.
Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul


Overview

Aretha Franklin was blessed with one of the greatest voices in all of popular music. She sang from the age of eight and performed professionally from the age of fourteen. Her talent, which many described simply as God-given, seemed sufficient to ensure her a life of comfort and ease. In spite of
earning large sums of money and having millions of adoring fans, Franklin experienced powerful insecurity. Nonetheless, the "Queen of Soul" persevered and became one of the legendary talents of her generation. With this fact-filled biography, readers will be able to celebrate this extraordinary artist by learning all about her fascinating life and career.

Zora Neale Hurston: Author and Anthropologist
By Samuel Willard Crompton, Charlotte Etinde-Crompton

Celebrating BLACK ARTISTS
ZORA NEALE
Overview
Like many artists before her, Zora Neale Hurston received virtually no recognition for her work until after her death. Hurston began her career as an anthropologist, observing and documenting the tension of race relations in the American South. She strove to expose the horrific practice of paramour rights, wherein white men sexually exploited black women in their employment. But this work and her later fiction, including the now famous Their Eyes Were Watching God, would end up in relative obscurity as her fictional portrayal of African American dialect was criticized as offensive and her political views were often less progressive than those of her contemporaries. With engaging, accessible text, this biography gives readers a fuller picture of this complicated writer and woman.

Becoming
By Michelle Obama
An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America—the first African American to serve in that role—she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives, and standing with her husband as he led America through some of its most harrowing moments.

Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare.

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world’s most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms.