

Nonfiction Picture Books Suggestions For Mentor Texts

Biography

THE BOY WHO LOVED MATH: THE IMPROBABLE LIFE OF PAUL ERDOS by Deborah Heiligman, illustrated by LeUyen Pham

MANFISH: A STORY OF JACQUES COUSTEAU by Jennifer Berne, illustrated by Eric Puybaret

MARTIN AND MAHALIA: HIS WORDS, HER SONG by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney

ME...JANE by Patrick McDonnell

NOAH WEBSTER AND HIS WORDS by Jeri Chase Ferris, illustrated by Vincent X. Kirsch

THE NOISY PAINT BOX by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Mary Grandpre

SNOWFLAKE BENTLEY by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Mary Azarian

TO DARE MIGHTY THINGS: THE LIFE OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by C.F. Payne

THE TREE LADY by H. Joseph Hopkins, illustrated by Jill McMurray

Fiction with Nonfiction Elements

ATLANTIC by G. Brian Karas (told from the POV of the Atlantic Ocean)

JOHN, PAUL, GEORGE & BEN by Lane Smith (very humorous book about famous Americans, weaving facts with fiction)

LOOKING AT LINCOLN by Maira Kalman (told from the POV of a girl who gives

lots of facts about Lincoln)

OVER AND UNDER THE SNOW by Kate Messner, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal (told in first person, this weaves in a lot of facts about animals in winter through a sledding trip; word choice in this text is superb)

Comparing Biographical Styles New Angles for Famous People

BIG GEORGE: HOW A SHY BOY BECAME PRESIDENT WASHINGTON by Anne Rockwell, illustrated by Matt Phelan

FARMER GEORGE PLANTS A NATION by Peggy Thomas, illustrated by Layne Johnson

GEORGE DID IT by Suzanne Tripp Jurmain, illustrated by Larry Day

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TEETH by Deborah Chandra & Madeleine Comora, illustrated by Brock Cole

HOW BEN FRANKLIN STOLE THE LIGHTNING by Rosalyn Schanzer

LINCOLN TELLS A JOKE: HOW LAUGHTER SAVED THE PRESIDENT (AND THE COUNTRY) by Kathleen Krull and Paul Brewer, illustrated by Stacy Innerst

NOW AND BEN: THE MODERN INVENTIONS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN by Gene Barretta

THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDS A LIBRARY by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by John O'Brien

THOMAS JEFFERSON: LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF EVERYTHING by Maira Kalman

THOSE REBELS, JOHN & TOM by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham

WORST OF FRIENDS: THOMAS JEFFERSON, JOHN ADAMS AND THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMERICAN FEUD by Suzanne Tripp Jurmain, illustrated by Larry Day

Events or Interesting Facts

FIREBOAT: THE HEROIC ADVENTURES OF JOHN J. HARVEY by Maria Kalman

FREEDOM ON THE MENU: THE GREENSBORO SIT-INS by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue

MIRACLE MUD: LENA BLACKBURNE AND THE SECRET MUD THAT CHANGED BASEBALL by David A. Kelly, illustrated by Oliver Dominguez

SIT-IN: HOW FOUR FRIENDS STOOD UP BY SITTING DOWN by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney

Science

All of these books have tremendously poetic text but still offer an enormous amount of facts. They are a pleasure to read.

BABY WHALE'S JOURNEY by Jonathan London, illustrated by Jon Van Zyle

FROG SONG by Brenda Z. Guiberson, illustrated by Gennady Spirin (includes a ton of onomatopoeia)

HERE COME THE HUMPBACKS by April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Jamie Hogan

MOONSHOT: THE FLIGHT OF APOLLO 11 by Brian Floca

THIS IS THE RAIN by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Jane Wattenberg

Weaving in Facts in Interesting Formats

ASTRONAUTS HANDBOOK by Meghan McCarthy (told in second person POV)

BEAKS by Sneed B. Collard III

A SEED IS SLEEPY by Dianna Hutts Aston, illustrated by Sylvia Long

WIRED by Anastasia Suen, illustrated by Paul Carrick