

Non-Fiction Texts

Recommended reference text for teaching non-fiction writing:

Telling True Stories: A Nonfiction Writers' Guide, Nieman Foundation at Harvard University [edited by Mark Kramer & Wendy Call]

Suggested Non-Fiction Reading List for High School Students:

[the following compilation includes list serve suggestions by Journalism Education Association journalism teachers, posted on JEA listserv in 2017]

1. 50 Writing Tools [Roy Peter Clark]
2. A Civil Action [Jonathan Harr]
3. A Good Walk Spoiled [John Feinstein] (for golfers)
4. A Hope in the Unseen [Ron Suskind]
5. A Long Way Gone [Ishmael Beah]
6. All Over But the Shoutin' [Rick Bragg]
7. And Still We Rise: The Trials and Triumphs of Twelve Gifted Inner-City Students [Miles Corwin]
8. Animals in Translation [Temple Grandin]
9. A Walk in the Woods [Bill Bryson]
10. Behind the Beautiful Forevers [Katherine Boo] (winner of National Book Award)
11. Bird by Bird [Ann Lamott]
12. Blue Highways [William Least-Heat Moon]
13. Enrique's Journey [Sonia Nazario]
14. Fast Food Nation [Eric Schlosser]
15. Friday Night Lights [H.G. Bissinger]
16. Getting a Stand [Miles Gilbert] (19th century first person accounts of buffalo hunting)
17. Hate Mail from Cheerleaders [Rick Reilly]
18. The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America [Erik Larson]
19. Glass Castle [Jeanette Walls]
20. Hiroshima [John Hersey]
21. Hunger for Memory [Richard Rodriguez]
22. In Cold Blood [Truman Capote]
23. Into Thin Air [Jon Krakauer]
24. Iron and Silk [Mark Salzman]
25. Kabul Beauty School [Deborah Rodriguez]
26. Letters to a Young Journalist [Samuel G. Freedman]
27. Love is a Mix Tape [Rob Sheffield]
28. Magnum, Fifty Years at the Front Lines of History [Russell Miller]
29. Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War [Nathaniel Philbrick]
30. Missing Links by Rick Riley
31. Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game [Michael M. Lewis]
32. Mountains beyond Mountains [Tracy Kidder]
33. Nickel and Dimed [Barbara Ehrenreich]
34. Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls [Rachel Simmons]
35. On Writing [Stephen King]
36. Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe, [Laurence Bergreen]
37. Reading Lolita in Tehran [Azar Nafisi]
38. Garlic and Sapphires: The Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise [Ruth Reichl]
39. Half a Life [Darin Strauss]
40. Seabiscuit: an American legend [Laura Hillenbrand]
41. Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers [Mary Roach]
42. Stuffed and Starved [Raj Patel]
43. The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup [Susan Orlean] (short non-fiction magazine pieces)
44. The Boys of Winter: the Untold Story of a Coach, a Dream, and the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team by Wayne Coffey, Jim Craig
45. The Corner (inspired the cable TV series The Wire) [Simon and Burns]
46. The Demon in the Freezer [Richard Preston]
47. The Great Peshtigo Fire: An Eyewitness Account, Second Edition [Peter Pernin]
48. The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks [Rebecca Skloot]
49. The Lemon Tree [Sandy Tolan] (thoughtful background to a part of the world in current turmoil)
50. The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11 [Lawrence Wright]
51. The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court [Jeffrey Toobin]
52. The Orchid Thief [Susan Orlean]
53. The Perfect Storm [Sebastian Junger]
54. The Places In Between [Rory Stewart]
55. The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the making of the Oxford English Dictionary [Simon Winchester]
56. The Right Stuff [Tom Wolfe]
57. The Soul of a New Machine [Tracy Kidder]
58. The World Without Us [Alan Weisman]
59. The Year We Disappeared [Cylin Busby]
60. There are No Children Here [Alex Kotlowicz]
61. Transition Game: How Hoops Went Hip Hop [L. Jon Wertheim]
62. Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith [Jon Krakauer]
63. Unbroken [Lauren Hillenbrand]
64. Unsun: Finding facts in a world of misinformation [Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson]
65. War [Sebastian Junger]
66. Working [Studs Terkel]