

Barry's Bibliography

(great non-fiction books for teachers to read and to share with students)

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir

By Bill Bryson ISBN 0-7679-1936-X

My favorite Bryson book that hilariously describes growing up in Iowa in the 1950's.

A Walk in the Woods

By Bill Bryson ISBN 0-7679-0252-1

This is a book that will entertain while it educates. Bryson's descriptions of hiking the Appalachian Trail are now required reading in college Environmental Science programs.

Who's Your Caddy?

By Rick Reilly ISBN 0-7679-1740-5

Reilly, who writes for Sports Illustrated, describes with humor his adventures as he caddies for some of the biggest names in golf—including Jack Nicklaus, David Duval, and John Daly.

Neither Here Nor There: Travels in Europe

By Bill Bryson ISBN 0-380-71380-2

Bryson takes us on a trip through Europe, sharing his provocative (and outrageously funny) insights about people and cultures.

I'm A Stranger Here Myself

By Bill Bryson ISBN 0-7679-0382-X

After 20 years in England, Bryson returns to the USA and begins writing feature articles about his attempts to reacquaint himself with his own country.

Hot Lights, Cold Steel

By Michael J. Collins, M.D. ISBN 0-312-35369-7

Collins writes powerfully and vividly about his four-year surgical residency at The Mayo Clinic.

The Glass Castle

By Jeannette Walls ISBN-13 978-0-7432-4754-2

My wife, Amy, just finished this book and declared it "the most powerful emotional experience ever generated from reading and that it changed her life forever". Walls writes about growing up in a dysfunctional family.

A Cure for Gravity

By Joe Jackson ISBN 0-306-81001-8

A beautifully written book about music, the creative process, and coming of age as an artist.

Flags of Our Fathers

By James Bradley ISBN 0-553-38415-5

A captivating chronicle of the lives of the six men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima in WWII.

A Short History of Nearly Everything

By Bill Bryson ISBN 0-7679-0818-X

My second favorite Bryson book, this one does just what the title declares—it explains pretty much everything from the formation of the cosmos to life itself.

An Inconvenient Truth

By Al Gore ISBN 1-59486-567-1

Gore, a pioneer in the campaign to inform the world on the dangers of global warming, describes our world in peril from a true planetary emergency.

In a Sunburned Country

By Bill Bryson ISBN 0-7679-0386-2

Bryson turns his wit and wisdom to the land down under, a place filled with friendly people and the world's most peculiar and deadly wildlife.

Guys Write for Guys Read

Edited by Jon Scieszka ISBN 0-670-06027-5

An irresistibly readable book filled with defining “guy moments”—funny, sad, triumphant, or humiliating.

Small Wonder

By Barbara Kingsolver ISBN 0-06-050407-2

A beautifully written book of essays that touch on our world and our humanity by a world-class writer with a biologist's perspectives.

Reluctant Warrior

By George Chute ISBN 1-58898-669-1

A semi-autobiographical account by Barry's brother of a young soldier's journey to becoming a seasoned veteran in the jungles of Viet Nam.

The Freedom Writer's Diary

By The Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell ISBN 978-0-7679-2490-0

The story of how a teacher and 150 teens used writing to change themselves and the world around them.

Me Talk Pretty One Day

By David Sedaris ISBN 0-316-77696-3

A sidesplitting examination of the ridiculousness of those around us through the eyes and affectionate curiosity of an author unafraid to examine his own mischievous weirdness.

The World Is Flat

By Thomas Friedman ISBN 0-374-29288-4

Friedman offers his provocative views of our world and its economies as we move through the painful changes caused by globalization.

The Lost Continent

By Bill Bryson ISBN 10-0-06-092008-4

Bryson adds to his reputation as an insightful and hilarious author, this time chronicling his rediscovery of the America of his youth by driving cross-country in “an aging Chevrolet Chevette lent me by my sainted and trusting mother”.

If I Die in a Combat Zone (Box Me Up and Ship Me Home)

By Tim O’Brien ISBN 0-7679-0443-5

This one was recommended by an RA participant, and it is a powerful reminder of the complex fate that was Vietnam. The book jacket says it very well: “O’Brien takes us with him to experience combat from behind an infantryman’s rifle . . . in a war gone terribly wrong.”

High Tide in Tucson

By Barbara Kingsolver ISBN 0-06-092756-9

In a collection of 25 essays, all of them immensely readable, Kingsolver focuses her scientist’s eye and poet’s vision on everything from modern motherhood to the history of private property to a clash of wills with a two-year old daughter.

The Things They Carried

By Tim O’Brien ISBN 0-7679-0289-0

Also recommended by RA participants, this is the precursor to **If I Die in a Combat Zone**, and it is equally powerful. The jacket describes it as “an unparalleled Vietnam testament and a profound study of men at war that illuminates the capacity, and the limits, of the human heart and soul.”

E=mc²

A Biography of the World’s Most Famous Equation

By David Bodanis ISBN 0-425-18164-2

Bodanis does a marvelous job of making Einstein’s work understandable and enjoyable. The book is filled with rich human stories of achievement and failure, politics and revenge, love and rivalry. We meet not only famous scientists at their best and worst, but also historical figures like Voltaire and Marat.

Shakespeare: The World as Stage

By Bill Bryson ISBN 978-0-06-074022-1

WOW! Boy, do I wish I had this book when I actually taught Shakespeare to kids! Bryson turns scholarly without losing his wit, and provides us with a wealth of interesting facts and captivating personal profiles from Shakespeare’s life and times.