



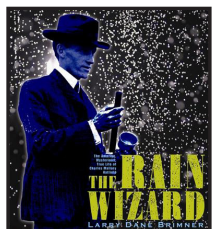
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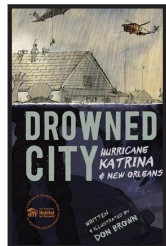
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Hot Titles - Fall 2015 - Older Nonfiction

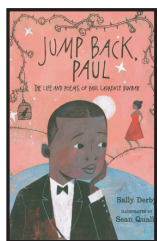
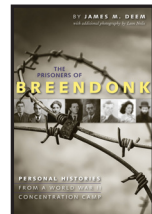


Brimner, Larry Dane. Rain Wizard: The Amazing, Mysterious, True Life Of Charles Mallory Hatfield. (151909) Calkins Creek. Ages 9-12. This story from 1915 resonates with today's front page news. San Diego was suffering from a drought and hired Charles Hatfield to bring rain. Soon after he started working on it the rains started falling and soon the town was flooded and numerous people died. Was he a fraud and it was a coincidence or did he have methods that actually could make it rain? Brimner plays up this mystery while giving us plenty of information about old Southern California, how rain works, and the human implications of drought and downpours. After many years writing series nonfiction, Brimner has been doing more in-depth, sophisticated nonfiction in the past few years, such as *Black & White* in 2011 and *Strike!* in 2014. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [120 pp.] \$19.49



Brown, Don. Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans. (158174) Houghton. Ages 12-16. Pages full of comic book like images with fairly limited text make this more of a visual capture of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. It is not so much an overall summary of events as a series of vignettes. Brown is known for many years of nonfiction on many topics and for several age groups but he took the same graphic approach to other major disasters with *America Is Under Attack* in 2011 and *Great American Dust Bowl* in 2013. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [96 pp.] \$20.91

Deem, James M. Prisoners Of Breendonk: Personal Histories From A World War II Concentration Camp. (268322) Houghton. Ages 14-18. This history of a Nazi concentration camp in Belgium pulls no punches when it comes to discussing the murder, torture, and degradation that went on there. I suppose there are some heroic moments discussed too but, nevertheless, this could give some younger readers nightmares. This is not a well-known camp but it has been very well-documented and this book benefited from many interviews of Breendonk prisoners and a lot of good quality photos. Deems has specialized in well-reviewed books with an archeological bent up to this point, such as *Bodies From The Ice* in 2008, but he has proven very capable of covering new ground in this book. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [340 pp.] \$20.91



Derby, Sally. Jump Back, Paul: The Life And Poems Of Paul Laurence Dunbar. (274432) Candlewick. Ages 9-12. This is a biography of an African-American poet who was pretty well-known around the turn of the 20th century. This is Derby's first foray into nonfiction; she has mainly done picture books such as last spring's *Sunday Shopping*. She was motivated to write this biography because both she and Dunbar were born in Dayton, Ohio. This does not have the feel of a typical biography. There are few dates and statistics – it is more like reading someone's life told as a story. Dunbar's poems are intermingled in the text, along with simple black-and-white drawings by Sean Qualls. Qualls has been very busy lately, illustrating various people's young nonfiction, such as Selina Alko's *Case for Loving* and Laurie Thompson's *Emmanuel's Dream* in 2015, and Dean Robbins' *Two Friends* coming in 2016. Good reviews by [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist+](#) [122 pp.] \$19.51

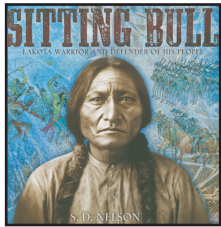
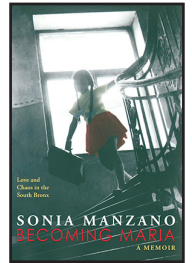
Gantos, Jack. Trouble In Me. (366132) Farrar. Ages 13-16. Gantos has mined his humorous but tragic early life for both award-winning fiction – *Dead End in Norvelt* in 2011 and *From Norvelt to Nowhere* in 2013, as well as for his Sibert Honor memoir *Hole in My Life* in 2002. He returns to a summer spent in Florida as a teenager for this autobiographical book. This is like a prequel to *Hole in My Life*, showing how he went from a smart-aleck but basically well-behaved kid to making lots of bad choices trying to please his tough neighbor. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [208 pp.] \$20.21



Hopkinson, Deborah. Courage & Defiance: Stories Of Spies, Saboteurs, And Survivors In World War II Denmark. (463362) Scholastic. Ages 14-18. Hopkinson picks a group of everyday Danish citizens who became involved in the Resistance against the Nazi occupation of their country throughout World War II and follows their activities to illuminate the bigger story of what happened in Denmark during WW II. This approach has a much more personal feel to it and has the advantage of being able to rely on interviews with these individuals for greater detail in the information presented. There are

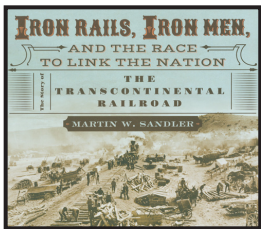
unfortunately limited and poor quality photos used in the book, a by-product of the fact that the Resistance's activities could get them shot and they were not eager to provide photo documentation of themselves. Hopkinson has done some of everything over many years but probably more fiction than nonfiction. She has also specialized, especially in her nonfiction, on a younger age level than this. However, the book most similar to this, *Titanic: Voices From The Disaster* in 2012, was a Sibert Honor book. Good reviews in [Kirkus](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist](#) and [Horn Book](#). [339 pp.] \$20.21

Manzano, Sonia. *Becoming Maria: Love And Chaos In The South Bronx*. (602365) Scholastic. Ages 12-16. Sonia Manzano is the actress who played Maria on Sesame Street for many years. She first tried out writing for children with autobiographical fiction in 2012, the very well-reviewed *Revolution Of Evelyn Serrano*. Now she has moved on to autobiography with this story of her childhood in the Bronx in the 1950s. It covers her life up to her interview for the job of Maria. It is written in a very matter-of-fact style, without much philosophized or moralizing. Unfortunately her Puerto Rican family was not big on pictures so there are very few photos illustrating the text. There are some adult situations described with her tough neighborhood and her difficult time spent in the grittier New York City entertainment world. She has also taken a story from her childhood and turned it into a picture book for younger readers this season, *Miracle On 133rd Street*. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist](#) and [Horn Book](#). [262 pp.] \$20.21



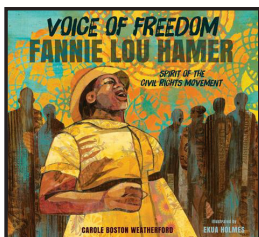
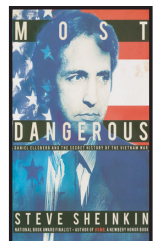
Nelson, S.D. *Sitting Bull: Lakota Warrior And Defender Of His People*. (670487) Abrams. Ages 9-12. Nelson imagines Sitting Bull, the great Lakota warrior, telling the story of his life, with extra attention given to his struggle against the encroaching white men. The illustrations are equally divided between historical black-and-white photos and Nelson's interpretations of Lakota drawings. This book could probably be used by as young as third or fourth graders because the text is not demanding. Nelson has written several books with Native American themes or about the West but he is best known for the very similarly themed and constructed *Black Elk's Vision* in 2010. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [55 pp.] \$21.59

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip Through The Motown Sound*. (719032) Roaring Brook. Ages 10-14. A nicely detailed story of how Berry Gordy, Jr. went from Detroit record store owner to songwriter to music mogul. His Motown Records created a unique sound and pioneering marketing to take African-American performers to the top of the music charts in the 1960s well into the 1980s. Pinkney's *Hand in Hand* in 2012 was also well-written biographical nonfiction. She seems to like musical themes because two of her better picture book biographies were of *Duke Ellington* and *Ella Fitzgerald*. Plentiful black-and-white photos show us the many famous groups that were part of the Motown Sound. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [166 pp.] \$19.51



Sandler, Martin W. *Iron Rails, Iron Men, And The Race To Link The Nation: The Story Of The Transcontinental Railroad*. (776751) Candlewick. Ages 10-14. A fairly detailed but not overly dry study of the building of the Transcontinental Railroad from 1863 to 1869. Sandler tries to inject as much drama and human interest as he can into the book by focusing on the competition between builders going east from California and those going west from Omaha. He also has one page boxes giving more detail on the colorful characters involved in this event that drastically altered the United States. The photos, due to the equipment of that time, are not high quality but they are still useful in telling the story. Sandler has written nonfiction for quite some time but he has certainly kept up his craft, judging by the excellent reviews recently for *Impossible Rescue* in 2012 and *Imprisoned* in 2013. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist](#) and [Horn Book](#). [211 pp.] \$23.71

Sheinkin, Steve. *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg And The Secret History Of The Vietnam War*. (809555) Roaring Brook. Ages 10-14. Noted writer Steve Sheinkin seems to be moving forward in history as he writes his books. He started with the American Revolution, as in his *Notorious Benedict Arnold* in 2010, his latest were *Bomb* in 2012 and *Port Chicago 50* in 2014 from the World War II era, and now he brings us the story of a whistleblower during the Vietnam War. Sheinkin does his usual job of thoroughly covering the subject, giving us the background we need, and yet making the information sound like a dramatic story. Ellsberg was responsible for publicly releasing the secret Pentagon Papers about the Vietnam War and was also at the heart of the Watergate scandal, two of the biggest issues of the 1960s and 1970s. That is an era that doesn't seem to have been covered for young readers except for numerous books about the civil rights movement, so this is a good addition to the Sheinkin collection. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book+](#) [370 pp.] \$21.61



Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Voice Of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit Of The Civil Rights Movement*. (924825) Candlewick. Ages 10-14. In a series of free verse poems Weatherford tries to capture the voice and experiences of Fannie Lou Hamer, an African-American lady in Mississippi who was a leading figure in the civil rights movement in the 1960s and 70s. In trim size and page count this is almost like a picture book but the poetry format, the language and the content make this for a somewhat older reader. Each poem gets a full color collage illustration by Ekua Holmes, a newcomer to the children's book world. Weatherford of course is no newcomer. She has won many honors for her nonfiction. Her recent books include 2015's *Gordon Parks* and 2014's *Sugar Hill*, one of several books in which she used the poetry format for the narrative. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book+](#) [34 pp.] \$20.21

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