2018 Amelia Bloomer List

Since 2002, the Amelia Bloomer Project has created an annual booklist of the best feminist books for young readers, ages birth through 18. We are part of the Feminist Task Force (http://www.ala.org/srrt/feminist-task-force) of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association.

Introduction

it is time to remember

time to summon our voices from the belly of the earth

time to feel, cry, rage, heal, and to truly live life instead

Helen Knott (Dane Zaa/Cree)
from “The Things We Taught Our Daughters” in #NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women

We, too

Girls and women are asserting their truth around the world as they write their own stories, make their voices heard, and demand change. We, too, learn, create, remember and share, support, and believe as we curate our booklist of notable feminist literature for people from birth to age eighteen that reflects the myriad truths of people worldwide.

We, too, learn

We learn from and teach one another, whether it be in an outdoor classroom as in Ahimsa; or online from the scholar–activists who wrote The Crunk Feminist Collection. Education is a basic human right, and we are determined to deconstruct any and all barriers to it—starting with the ones described in Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time. Tanya Lee Stone asserts in Girl Rising, “Because educating girls literally changes how nations behave. Educating girls changes how governments function. It changes economies and jobs. It changes the shape of healthcare. It’s changes how families are raised.”

We, too, create

“Great art is life-changing,” says Bridget Quinn in Broad Strokes: 15 Women who Made Art and Made History (In That Order). Whether it’s collages (Piecing Me Together), zines (The First Rule of Punk, Moxie), fine art (Broad Strokes), essays (The Crunk Feminist Collection), or all of the above (#NotYourPrincess), our list is filled with the acts of creation. These acts range from creating to live to creating to resist. We affirm the right to create and express oneself in the way that is best and makes the most sense to the individual.

We, too, remember and share

We, too recognize the need to bear witness and to serve as witness, sharing our stories and the stories of others, whether they be the rebellion-seeding oral histories in The One Hundred Nights of Hero or the revolutionary writings of Malala’s Magic Pencil. As Amani Al-Khatahtbeh writes in Muslim Girl: A Coming of Age, “[w]e are the ones reclaiming our voices, the ones talking back, and the ones reminding the world that no, we haven’t forgotten.”

We, too, remember. We, too, will make sure the world remembers these stories.
**We, too, support**

Like Big Bob and Little Bob, we support people of all genders to play, imagine, dress, dream as their full selves despite pressure to conform. We seek out opportunities to echo Lolo in *Hand Over Hand* and tell one another, "This is your fight. You can do it." We acknowledge when we have failed to support each other and, like Shabnam and Farah in *That Thing We Call a Heart*, we repair our relationships. We celebrate that the movement for justice does not only belong to us—like *Moxie*, it is an ever-growing web of action that belongs to every person "who wants to be a part of it."

**We, too, believe**

We believe girls and women know themselves and their experiences. In *Saints and Misfits*, Janna wonders who will take her word over that of a highly respected young man at her mosque. For the Nowhere Girls, believing girls and women becomes a mission and a movement. In *Dreadnought*, Danny has never been believed about her identity as she faces a world that is "terrified of someone who would reject manhood. Terrified of a girl who knows who she is and what she’s capable of."

Even with all of the challenges we are currently facing, we hope that readers will see themselves in our list and are inspired to continue to work for change.

> It meant things were finally changing. Maybe everything wasn’t so hopeless after all.

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**Supriya Kelkar, *Ahimsa***

**Committee**

The Amelia Bloomer List is a project of the Feminist Task Force (http://www.ala.org/srrt/feminist-task-force/) of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. Members of the 2018 Amelia Bloomer Project committee are Katelyn Browne (co-chair), University of Northern Iowa (IA); Lizz Zitron (co-chair), Pacific Lutheran University (WA); Kelly Dickinson, National Cathedral School (DC); Emily Fear, Sewickley Public Library (PA); Natasha Forrester Campbell, Multnomah County Library (OR) Kelsey Keyes, Boise State University (ID); Caitie Morphew, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (PA); Melissa Nemitz, West Windsor Branch of the Mercer County Library System (NJ); Leila Roy, Lyman Community Library (ME); and Ally Watkins (alternate), Mississippi Library Commision (MS).

*An asterisk (*) indicates that a book is one of our Top Ten titles (https://ameliabloomer.wordpress.com/2018/02/12/2018-top-ten/).*

**Early Readers**

**Fiction**


Nina finally convinces her grandfather to take her fishing, defying tradition.


When the boys on the playground tell Lucía she can’t be a superhero because she is a girl, Lucía becomes a Luchadora and is joined by many other children.

Next-door neighbors Big Bob and Little Bob have different hobbies. Will cultural understandings of masculinity keep them from becoming friends?


Clive and his friends play with dolls, challenging gender stereotypes.

**Nonfiction**


Illustrated biographies of 40 trailblazing black women in American history who defied both gender and racial expectations.


Emmeline Pankhurst, a political activist and leader of the British suffragette movement, fought for women to get the vote.


A visit to the Battery Park Aquarium inspires Eugenie Clark to spend her life studying sharks, pursuing revolutionary science in the face of prejudice.


During a time when women in sports were just starting to gain the recognition they deserved, Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim across the English Channel.


Bobbi Gibb would not take no for an answer when she was told that women couldn’t run in the Boston Marathon, becoming the first woman to run the race.


Naturalist and artist Anna Comstock defied bias against women in the sciences to pursue and share her passion for studying the natural world.


Sophie Blanchard became the first woman pilot and never let anyone limit her passion for flying.


In this picture book for young children, Malala expresses her passion for access to education, especially for girls.

**Middle Grade**

**Fiction**
When all of the sorceresses in the walled city of Lightning Pass disappear, a student at an all-girls magic school is determined to find them and protect her city from threats without and within.

Eight-year-old Jasmine decides to participate in her family’s mochi-tsuki by pounding mochi with the men—even though she is a girl and considered too young.

Led by her mother, Anjali and her family become involved in the Indian freedom movement.

In 1945, Maria learns to play softball with her classmates and strategizes to protect her family’s farm in the face of racist and sexist laws.

Kate Warne, the first female professional private detective in the United States, cracks her first case and solves the mystery of the missing money.

Malú brings her love of punk, her zine creation skills, and her willingness to advocate for herself to a new middle school.

A young mermaid called Fish Girl, trapped by Neptune in a boardwalk aquarium, becomes friends with an ordinary girl. This friendship inspires Fish Girl’s longing for freedom and independence.

**Nonfiction**

Seamstress Fannie Sellins inspired activism in the garment and mining industries, helped create unions, and traveled the country inspiring men and women to stand up for fair wages and treatment.

This anthology highlights fifty accomplished women in sports with text and illustrations detailing their achievements and lives.

This inspiring guide introduces girls to the tough sport of rugby including history, rules, and famous female players.

Milly Zantow introduced a functional plastics recycling system to the United States using community-oriented business practices.

Florence Nightingale defied Victorian England’s rigid rules for women, by becoming a nurse, advocating for women’s inclusion in the medical field, and changing nursing forever.

Gender roles, racial prejudice and segregation are clearly addressed in the inspiring story of four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who made significant contributions to the space program.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s childhood experiences of sexism and anti-Semitism help the reader understand how she became a legal scholar and Supreme Court justice.

**Young Adult**

**Fiction**

High school sophomore Janna deals with the aftermath of a sexual assault while also navigating a crush and maintaining friendships.

Through allegory, artistic exploration, and volunteering at an animal shelter, Nina Faye works to disentangle her ideas of womanhood from the warped images that surround her.

With support from her family, boyfriend, and friends, Audrey Spencer navigates her unplanned pregnancy and embraces her ability and right to seek the future she wants without guilt or shame.

In this feminist retelling of Snow White, Lynet and her stepmother Mina must each break away from patriarchal control.

Pearl decides to escape from her abusive father by disguising herself as a boy. She and Ramshackle ride the American rails and wrestle their inner demons during the Depression.

When Danny inherits the superhero Dreadnought’s powers, she gains her ideal body. As Danny adjusts, she must face transphobic sexism and a mysterious new supervillain.

In a series of linked tales, two young women use the power of storytelling to attempt to save themselves from an impossible situation and two dastardly men.

Annis Whitworth discovers her ability to sew magic into clothing in Regency England.


*Redgate, Riley. *Noteworthy*. Illus. by Ben Wiseman. 2017. 384p. Abrams/Amulet, $17.95 (9781419723735). Gr. 8–up. High school junior Jordan Sun creates a male persona to apply for her school’s most prestigious all–male a cappella group… and gets accepted, requiring her to continue living a double life.


*Watson, Renée. *Piecing Me Together*. 2017. 264p. Bloomsbury, $17.99 (9781681191058). Gr. 7–up. Jade is tired of being singled out as someone who needs to be fixed. As she matures as an artist, she explores issues of race and privilege in her relationships.


Nonfiction


In the form of parenting advice to a friend, Adichie makes practical suggestions for feminist living while delineating a clear theory of feminism.


Amani Al-Khatahtbeh, founder of MuslimGirl.com, reflects on her experiences coming of age as a young Muslim American woman in a post–9/11 world.


#NotYourPrincess features the voices of fifty women artists as they answer the question, “What is it like to be an indigenous woman or girl today?”


This collection of essays from the popular Crunk Feminist Collective blog discuss race, sex, gender, pop culture, politics, and friendship.

Erickson-Schroth, Laura, MD, and Laura A. Jacobs, LCSW-R. “You’re in the Wrong Bathroom!”: *And 20 Other Myths and Misconceptions About Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming People.* 2017. 182p. Beacon, paper, $16.00 (9780807033890). Gr. 8–up.

The authors debunk common misunderstandings about trans and gender-nonconforming people, including medical, social, psychological, and political topics.


Increasing violence in Syria forces 16-year-old student Doaa Al Zamel to flee her homeland. Doaa’s true story of resistance and survival underscores the ongoing plight of Syrian refugees.


One of the leaders of the American women’s suffrage movement, Alice Paul dedicated her life to fighting for women’s equality.


An art historian explores the work, lives, and legacies of 15 women artists from 1600 to the present day.


Comedian Phoebe Robinson discusses the intersections of gender, race, feminism and pop culture in this collection of essays.


This companion book to the documentary Girl Rising profiles girls around the world who face significant obstacles to gaining an education.