2020 Rise: A Feminist Book Project List

Since 2002, Rise: A Feminist Book Project (formerly 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/srtrt/feminist-task-force) of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association.

We are now Rise: A Feminist Book Project for ages 0-18.


With Laurie Halse Anderson’s *Shout* and Laura Ruby’s *Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All*, we remember. We reflect on things that have been taken. We rage against it, and we reclaim it. We resolve to recognize our fear and step out of our comfort zones; as Alice Tapper says in *Raise My Hand*: “I want to raise my hand, but sometimes it’s too scary.” But we challenge ourselves to do it anyway.

In *What Do You Do With a Voice Like That* (Barton), we are inspired by Barbara Jordan’s voice and her determination to use it. *We Set the Dark on Fire* (Mejia) ignites the fight for ourselves and others. *Strange Birds* (Perez) demands institutional change. In *Fighter in Velvet Gloves* (Boochever), we watch Elizabeth Peratrovich challenge systemic racism.

In *I Am The Night Sky* (Next Wave Muslim Initiative), we celebrate the importance of speaking up and out, but not over. "They didn’t ask, but I had to tell them, I had to tell them what I was, who I was, an act of remembrance" (Noor Saleem). Bri in *On The Come Up* (Thomas) learns to speak through verse and rhyme, finding her own identity and moving people to action.

In *Make Trouble* (Richards), we learn the importance of engaging with the world around us to elevate marginalized voices. *Forward Me Back to You* (Perkins) empowers us to validate our pain and embrace our future.

“We remember it and we honor it by making our own voices heard” (Barton, *What Do You Do With a Voice Like That*).

We rise.

Join us.

Committee

Rise: A Feminist Book Project for Ages 0-18 is a project of the Feminist Task Force (http://www.ala.org/srtrt/feminist-task-force/) of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. Members of the 2020 Amelia Bloomer Project committee are: Kelsey Keyes (co-chair), Albertsons Library, Boise State University (ID); Melissa Nemitz (co-chair), West Windsor Branch of the Mercer County Library System (NJ); Tiffeni Fontno, Boston College (MA); Natasha Forrester Campbell, Multnomah County Library (OR); Silvia Lin Hanick, LaGuardia Community College (CUNY) (NY); Ariana Sani Hussain, The Blake School (MN); Leila Roy, Lyman Community Library (ME); Sara Saxton, Wasilla Public Library (AK); Ally Watkins, First Regional Library (MS) and Jean-Louise Zancanella, College of Western Idaho (ID).
2020 Rise: A Feminist Book Project List

An asterisk (*) indicates that a book is one of our Top Ten Titles (https://ameliabloomer.wordpress.com/2020/01/27/2020-rise-a-feminist-book-project-top-ten/).

Early Readers

Fiction

Mira attempts to make her curly hair straight like her mother’s but makes a discovery that changes both of their perceptions.

Before these feminists were famous they were…babies!

Before these additional feminists were famous they were…babies!

Zuri’s father, a novice hairstyler, helps find the perfect hairstyle to help her feel special.

Ho’onani doesn’t feel like a wahine (girl) or kāne (boy); she’s somewhere in the middle. Is there room for her in kāne hula chant?

Afraid to start his first day at a new school, Levi learns that big boys do cry.

A young girl observes women in her life who each wear the hijab in a unique way, and imagines how she may someday express her personality through her hijab.

Faizah gazes at her older sister Asiya’s new beautiful, strikingly blue first day hijab with pride, finding inner strength even when others misunderstand and are unkind at school.

The world needs a boy like you: thoughtful, kind, curious, smart, helpful, loving, and brave!

A picture book celebrating the bonds of a Cherokee family and history-making Native women in the military during WWII.

$17.99 (9781524791209). Gr. 1-3.

11-year-old Alice challenges girls to have confidence, to raise their hands, and speak up in class.


When Ruby’s brothers leave her behind she changes the game, making it even better than before.


Female leaders, visionaries, and dreamers encourage readers to explore all possibilities and dream BIG!

**Nonfiction**


Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, the first Black woman to be elected to the Texas legislature, was also the first Southern Black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.


Beverley heard repeatedly from childhood that girls weren’t pilots. Beverley proved everyone wrong by becoming the captain of a major airline and several other firsts for female commercial pilots.


Kathrine Switzer was determined to prove that women could run long distances. She became the first woman to enter the Boston Marathon.


A biography told in free verse of Gwendolyn Brooks celebrating her life and her poems.


Today girls can participate in sports of all kinds, thanks to the generations of women athletes that worked to pass Title IX in the United States.

**Hegedus, Bethany**. *Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou*. Illus. by Tonya Engel. 48p. Lee & Low. $20.95 (9781620145876). Gr. 1-3.

Maya Angelou survived rape, poverty, and racism to become a poet, humanitarian, and activist.


Pop-ups and colorful graphics normalize anatomy, menstruation, and menstrual product options.


A woman’s voice can be a powerful instrument of change, as evidenced by the fourteen women showcased here. Vibrant illustrations, audio clips, and engagement questions round out each mini-biography.


Leonora Carrington rejected the life of a “proper” lady to become a leader in the surrealist art movement.

Illustrated profiles of nineteen Muslim women of different nationalities and national origins in various fields who persevere, contribute, and change the world for the better.

This biography follows Cherokee activist Wilma Mankiller’s life, from her childhood in rural Oklahoma to her election as the first female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

Tennis phenomenon Billy Jean fought for fairness in women’s sports and proved that men and women are equal on and off the court.

Maria Montessori was the first woman in Italy to go to medical school. She revolutionized the field of early childhood education.

Simone de Beauvoir was a French philosopher and important feminist writer.

This biography of Sojourner Truth covers her early life under slavery, finding her purpose, and her life’s work as an abolitionist and advocate for civil rights and women’s rights.

**Middle Grade**

**Fiction**

When Mila begins to be sexually harassed at her middle school, it affects her friendships, her extracurriculars, and her family life.

With her alcoholic father unable to run the family food cart, 14-year old Nia takes on home and money-making duties while saving money for her education.

Hale’s graphic memoir reflects on 6th grade as a time of questioning what friendship is, gaining confidence in her abilities, and pushing back against societal limits on girls and women.

In 1957, when the government enacts a law that terminates their Umpqua tribal status, Regina’s family becomes “Indian no more,” forced from their homeland and relocated to Los Angeles.

The summer before starting middle school, four very different girls—a journalist, a chef, a birdwatcher, and an artist—form a secret Scout troop dedicated to “truth, kindness, justice, and community.”


**Nonfiction**


**Young Adult**

**Fiction**


Bartlett, Claire Eliza. *We Rule the Night*. 393p. Hachette/Little, Brown. $17.99 (9780316417273). Gr. 9-up. Two girls use illegal magic to fly and fight for the Union in a fantasy realm inspired by the Night Witches, Soviet female bomber pilots of World War II.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Capin, Hannah</td>
<td><em>The Dead Queens Club</em></td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Harlequin/Inkyard</td>
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<td>Carlton, Susan Kaplan</td>
<td><em>In the Neighborhood of True</em></td>
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<td><em>Once &amp; Future</em></td>
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<td>Cavallaro, Brittany and Emily Henry</td>
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<td>2019</td>
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<td><em>All-American Muslim Girl</em></td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Macmillan/Farrar, Straus and Giroux</td>
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<td>Emezi, Akwaeke</td>
<td><em>Pet</em></td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Penguin Random House/Make Me a World</td>
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<td><em>All the Bad Apples</em></td>
<td>2019</td>
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<td>Gough, Erin</td>
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<td>Hartl, Sonia</td>
<td><em>Have a Little Faith in Me</em></td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Page Street.</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
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<td>Jean, Emiko</td>
<td><em>Empress of All Seasons</em></td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt</td>
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The yokai demon Mari, intending to steal the imperial fortune, competes to become the next empress of Honoku, but finds that her choices will shape the fate of all yokai.

In 1992 Baton Rouge, rumors abound at a Catholic school that pro-life Helen had an abortion, causing her feminist riot grrrl sister Athena, to rise to her defense.

As a queer, Bengali-American teen, Rukhsana must navigate love, culture, and homophobia within her family.

Beth, recently deceased, accompanies her detective father in ghostly form to investigate an arson in a remote Australian town. Their only witness speaks in stories that may reveal darker truths.

Three young women find their fates entwined while investigating the disappearance of girls on Sawkill Island, spanning generations, and discover that the truth is far more sinister than it seemed.

In Garner County, 16-year-old girls, including rebellious Tierney, are sent to an isolated island, where they must release their seductive, poisonous magic into the wild before taking their proper places as a wives and mothers.

**Meconis, Dylan. Queen of the Sea. 2019. 400p. Candlewick/Walker, $24.99 (9781536204988). Gr. 6-up.**
When political exiles, including the former queen, arrive on the island, Margaret questions her life in the island’s convent, the true nature of its existence, and her own presence there.

**Mejia, Tehlor Kay. We Set the Dark on Fire. 2019. 364p. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen, $17.99 (9780062691316). Gr. 8-up.**
Wealthy young men in Medio are matched with two wives: a wise Primera and a passionate Segunda. Rivals, now sharing a household, Daniela and Carmen must come together to survive.

Tired of being told being fat means she’s lacking, Sweetie begins to gain and display more confidence, including dating a handsome boy her mother says is out of her league.

High school senior, Kiera, secretly creates a multiplayer online role-playing game dedicated to Black culture but is attacked in mainstream media after a player is murdered.

**Moss, Sarah. Ghost Wall. 2019. 132p. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $22.00 (9780374161927). Gr. 10-up.**
Silvie and her family join an anthropology class to live as if they are ancient Britons. She discovers that Iron Age life was difficult, but the patriarchy remains timeless.

A summer service trip to work with survivors of human trafficking allows two American teens, Katina and Ravi, to learn, grow, and heal their own suffering in unexpected ways.

Two young women try to survive in harsh circumstances in WWII Chicago—one of them living, one of them dead.


A novel tracing the lives of three generations of Palestinian-American women, Deya, Isra and Fareeda, who struggle to find their places, and their voices, in a culture dominated by men.


Rachel is forced to collaborate on her final film project with the impossibly beautiful, accomplished Sana, who once seemingly pranked Rachel by asking her out.


After she leaves prison a “fallen woman,” sixteen-year-old Orpha finds refuge at Urania Cottage. There, she is guided by author Charles Dickens, philanthropist Lady Burdett-Coutts, and a community of women.

**Spillett, Tasha and Natalie Donovan.** *Surviving the City, Vol. 1.* 2019. 54p. HighWater, paper, $18.95 (9781553797562). Gr. 8-up.

Two friends, Miikwan and Dez, navigate the dangers of life in the city, shadowed constantly by the memories of murdered and missing Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people.


CJ and student activists campaign to change the name of their high school, named after a racist who preyed upon interned Japanese-American families, including her own.


Despite Laura Dean’s cheating and emotional manipulation, Frederica “Freddy” Riley is still in love with her. But relationship woes have caused Freddy to neglect her friends who need her support.


Sixteen-year-old Bri, an aspiring rapper, finds herself stereotyped and depicted as a “hoodlum” following the release of her debut song, written in response to being assaulted by school security guards.


In 1930’s San Francisco, Willa MacCarthy dreams of becoming a doctor, but must resist expectations from her family and gender discrimination.


From childhood, Milla has been taught to fear the demon that cursed her village. When her friend is taken, Milla sets out to confront the demon and break the curse.


High school student Camille, and two friends, must drive thousands of miles to procure the abortion Camille can’t get due to restrictions in her home state of Texas.
Through writing, poetry and performance, Jasmine and Chelsea find and use their voices to fight for gender equality.

The Unstoppable Wasp Nadia Van Dyne is back with her team of teen girl scientists! But what will happen when villains A.I.M. strike?

When her friend abruptly disappears from Innovations Academy, Philomena begins to question her school’s curriculum (focused on obedience, beauty, and purity) and control (of her diet, friendships, and curiosity).

Reflecting back and forth between the present and the past, Scarlett recounts the emotional challenges of her first year of college, recovering from intense relationships and discovering new ones.

**Nonfiction**

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.

In this memoir in verse, Halse Anderson recounts her experience of sexual assault, its impact on her life, and how she continues to speak up for survivors.

This text defines rape culture and provides concrete steps for dismantling the words, ideas, and actions that perpetuate cycles of violence against women.

A richly illustrated history of women’s suffrage in the United States that highlights underrecognized activists. Recommended as reference source.

This anthology of short stories, poems, collages by American Muslim teens in the greater Washington D.C. metropolitan area highlights everyday reality, marginalization and expressions of identity and faith.

A short, yet comprehensive guide to the history of abortion rights in North America and the continued fight for reproductive justice.