Amelia Bloomer Project 2011 List

Introduction

Feminism is alive and thriving, a movement with a rich history that constantly gets reshaped and redefined. – Courtney E. Martin and J. Courtney Sullivan, Click p.17

As we honor strong, powerful girls and the books that inspire them, the Amelia Bloomer Project celebrates 2010, a year that has sounded a call to action for multiple generations of feminists to work together and reflected diversity of culture and format. We rejoice in stellar picture books with feminist content, welcome newly represented formats of zine, stencil and coloring books, and appreciate graphic novels that explore new visions for girls and women with a variety of artistic styles. These books encourage girls and young women to love themselves for who they are, overcoming issues of body image to create new cultural contexts that honor the beauty of all girls and women. Infinitely resilient, women and girls survive heartbreaking conditions to provide messages of hope to us all. We reimagine our herstory through books that excite us with previously unknown jewels of information and empower us with historical fiction that challenges the past in which it was set and our own thoughts and actions now. Dystopian futures comment on practices around the world today and encourage us to change our behavior as well as inspiring us with sheroes who overcome unimagined odds. Girls and women embrace non-traditional roles that empower them and us.

...instinctively, we get that the scariest thing is not dying but not trying at all. - Eve Ensler, I Am An Emotional Creature p.110

The Amelia Bloomer Project is part of the Feminist Task Force of the American Library Association’s Social Responsibility Round Table. The committee members are Angela Semifero, Marshall District Library (MI); Beth Olshewsky, co-chair, Tulare County Office of Education (CA); Dana Campbell, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library (OR); Jennie Law, John Bulow Campbell Library (GA); Joy Worland, Joslin Memorial Library (VT); Linda Parsons, Ohio State University (OH); Maureen McCoy, co-chair, Brooklyn Public Library (NY).

For more information, please visit the Amelia Bloomer Project blog http://ameliabloomer.wordpress.com/

Recommended Titles 2011

Young Readers

Fiction

Although she is a talented young artist, Abiah Rose is told that serious painting is “not girl’s work.” Undaunted, she secretly finds a way to sign her name to her art, while dreaming of an independent future.

A laugh-out-loud coloring book in which each panel offers a different vision of empowerment for girls and womyn of all ages.

An early story of a woman who proved that girls—even little girls—could have the courage and heart to become Sherpa guides.

Princess Pigtoria will not be tortured by the pea designed to test her delicateness, nor will she marry just any old pig!

Born in the seventeenth century, young Maria was blessed with artistic talent and an inquisitive mind which led her to solve the mystery of butterfly development.

When her father falls ill, young Sal gets her wish to drive the mail alone across the wilderness relying on her skills as a crack-shot and driver. Yet, in the end, it’s her quick thinking that defeats the famous bandit, Poetic Pete.

After her brothers fail, Mary meets her father’s challenge with creativity and intelligence and so inherits the family farm.

**Nonfiction**

Betty Mae Jumper became the first woman to be elected tribal leader for the Seminoles. She is also a storyteller, a nurse, an alligator wrestler, and helped to start a newspaper.

When others say girls can’t fly, Elinor’s courageous spirit leads her to defy her critics, completing a dare that shows the world what a girl can do.

Emma Lazarus wrote the poem engraved on the Statue of Liberty, and she devoted her life to the respectful treatment of immigrants.

Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai starts the Green Belt Movement in Kenya and inspires her countrywomen to protect the land and stand up for their rights.

Wangari Maathai and the women of Kenya transformed the countryside one tree at a time until the land and their spirits were restored.

Sojourner Truth’s long purposeful strides carried her across the country to spread her message of freedom and equality.

Louise Smith discovered her “need for speed” at a time when most girls didn’t even drive; she went on to become a NASCAR racing legend.

Effa Manley grew up loving baseball, founded and managed the Negro League’s Newark Eagles, and became the first woman in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Supported by a loving family and propelled by her own hard work, Sonia Sotomayor succeeds at school, finding her way out of the projects to become a top notch lawyer, eventually serving on the Supreme Court.

**Middle Readers**

**Fiction**
Princess Meg’s dragon escapes from the palace grounds. Meg and her scrappy band of friends set out to find the dragon and encounter many adventures along the way.

When the Secret Science Alliance loses its notebook to a rival inventor, the team of science wiz kids springs into action to retrieve their notebook and protect a treasure.

Three women of diverse backgrounds and perspectives help free one another from the constraints of society.

Charlie Anne struggles against proper behavior and everyday problems on a depression era farm.

Maid Marian uses her unusual gift of communication with her falcons to conspire with Robin Hood and their band of friends to escape her captors and rescue a ransomed king.

Seeing the world through the lens of a camera increases Sam’s awareness and involvement with the social changes that rock her community: Jackson, Mississippi, 1962.

Using intelligence and wit, Alessandra overcomes the societal expectations of women to realize her dream, to become a female anatomist.

When Hurricane Katrina breaks New Orleans’ levees, 12-year old Lanesha’s dreams of becoming an engineer and a builder of bridges anchor her determination to survive the flood and inspire her to rescue others as well.

Wonder Woman battles the supervillain Genocide to reclaim her lasso and her power.

When their Alaskan village is ravaged by the Great Death, two sisters set out on a journey to save one another, meeting previously unimaginable challenges.
Enola Holmes, Sherlock’s teenage sister, solves a case involving a kidnapped heiress and a mystery involving the Holmes family members.

In Newfoundland, Canada, Grace, an aspiring girl reporter meets Amelia on the eve of her 1928 transatlantic crossing. Their parallel journeys of self-determination and growth coincide as Amelia inspires Grace.

Delphine and her sisters anticipate a reunion with their mother, which unexpectedly means a summer spent at a Black Panther youth camp in 1968 Oakland.

Ace fencer Aliera bravely takes up the mantel of the world’s defender.

**Nonfiction**

In 2008, 10-year-old Nujood Ali became the first child bride from Yemen to secure a divorce from her much older husband, freeing her from a forced marriage of rape and abuse.

**Crysdale, Joy.** Fearless Female Journalists. 2010. 118p. Second Story Press, $10.95 (978-1-897187-71-5). Gr.5-up.
These ten women changed the world and encourage everyone to be truly courageous, to speak truth and create change.

A history of the hard-working, risk-taking American cowgirl, from the earliest Western ranches, to the rodeos of today.

**Hamen, Susan E.** Clara Barton: Civil War Hero & American Red Cross Founder. 2010. 112p. ABDO Publishing Company, $32.79 (978-1-6045-3960-8). Gr.5-8.
The Angel of the Battlefield tended soldiers on both sides of the Civil War, pioneered for women’s rights, and founded the Red Cross in America.

**Rothery, Louise.** Lest We Forget: A Salute to the Women Who Entered Corporate America Without a Road Map. 2009. 56p. Seawordy, $12.00 (978-0-615-30683-4). Gr. 4-up.
Whimsical line drawings share messages about sexism and discrimination.
Breaking racial and gender barriers, Ellen Ochoa becomes the first Latina astronaut and continues to inspire youth across America today.

Facing poverty and racism, the only girl in a large Latino family becomes a best-selling author, humanitarian, and activist.

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**Young Adult**

**Fiction**

**Chevalier, Tracy.** Remarkable Creatures. 2010. 320p. Dutton, $26.95 (978-0-525-95145-2). Gr.9-up.
Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpot forge an unusual partnership as they struggle for recognition of fossil discoveries in a scientific community disinclined to acknowledge women.

The sweatshop workers of the virtual world unite with one another and with traditional workers across continents and languages to fight for better conditions.

This empowering collection imagines the inner thoughts, feelings, fears, and dreams of girls around the globe.

In 1904, sixteen-year-old Maggie Bennett is torn from her life of privilege, landing in the wilds of Montana. She gradually embraces previously inconceivable possibilities for personal and professional growth.

Alva Jane, raised in an isolated religious community, must question everything she has ever known and learn to trust herself, in order to survive.

Lynn lives in a world dominated by male gladiator culture. When her father is killed in the arena and she is forced to marry his killer, Lynn subverts the ruling order.

McKay, Sharon. Thunder Over Kandahar. Photographs by Rafał Gerszak. 2010. 247 p. Annick Press, $12.95 (978-1-55451-266-9). Gr. 7-up. Two girls with very different backgrounds face challenges from family, the Taliban, and harsh terrain as they flee their circumstances.

McNees, Kelly O’Connor. The Lost Summer of Louisa May Alcott. 2010. 352p. Amy Einhorn Books/Putnam, $24.95 (978-0-399-15652-6). Gr. 9-12. The author imagines a summer in which Alcott, 22, falls in love with a young man who returns that love and supports her dreams. Complicated choices reflect her independence, thoughtfulness, and strength of character.


Oliveira, Robin. My Name is Mary Sutter. 2010. 364p. Penguin/Viking, $26.95 (978-0-670-02167-3). Gr.10-up. Mary Sutter’s indomitable determination to become a surgeon interweaves with a vivid account of the grizzly realities of the Civil War.

Nasrin, Taslima. Revenge. Translated by Honor Moore. 2010. 176p. Feminist Press, $15.95 (978-155861659-2). Gr. 10-up. By taking control of her own body, Jhumur regains the confidence and independence she experienced before her marriage to a traditional Muslim man.

Okorafor, Nnedi. Who Fears Death. 2010. 386p. Daw Books, $24.95 (978-0-7564-0617-2). Gr. 11- up. In post-apocalyptic Sudan, a young sorceress overcomes the stain of the genocidal rape from which she was conceived to rewrite relations between races and sexes.


Batwoman, gutsy, strong and courageous, stands up to enemies and institutions in this visually captivating book.

Nonfiction

Blazing her way into the Negro Leagues, Toni Stone overcomes gender and racial barriers to become the first female professional baseball player.

Two young women take a feminist road trip interviewing women of all ages and walks of life across America.

Susan Campbell uses humor and insight to describe her unlikely journey from fundamentalist Christianity to feminism.

Vintage ads and a cheeky sense of humor cast a light on the cultural attitudes, products and practices of menstruation over time.

Visually stunning overview of international aviation pioneers, women who broke gender barriers.

Markel gives concise, frank advice to teenage girls about how to be themselves and how to stand as strong feminist individuals as they grow toward adulthood.

An engaging collection of essays surrounding the pivotal moment each contributor claimed the label of feminist for themselves.

The Sacred Dark Feminine calls women young and old to confront injustice and stand up to power.

**Queen of the Neighborhood, ed.** Revolutionary Women A Book of Stencils. 2010. 107p. PM Press, $12.00 (978-1604862003). Gr. 7-up.

A captivating collection of short biographies and stencil images of female activists, revolutionaries and leaders from diverse geographic areas and time periods.


Crystal Renn, a famous plus-size model, tells of her struggle to overcome her eating disorder and change the cultural view of beauty with amazing wit, honesty, and awareness.


Stuller presents the female heroes of modern myth and the superwomen who break traditional male barriers in comics, film, and television.


Traister’s insightful account shines a feminist light on the media moments, principal players, and public opinion of the 2008 election.


America’s record-breaking aviatix, Amelia Earhart pursued her passions, broke gender barriers, and inspired generations of women to take to the skies.


New Yorker Edith Wharton, first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize, chose a decidedly unconventional lifestyle during the Gilded Age.