2021 Rise: A Feminist Book Project for Ages 0-18 List

Rise: A Feminist Book Project for Ages 0-18 is a project of the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association.

An asterix (*) indicates that a book is in one of our Top Ten Titles.

Early Readers - Fiction

When her abuelo is injured on a trash pile in her neighborhood, young Sofia decides to replace it with a park. And with persistence and hard work, she succeeds.

Women take the wheel in this colorful picture book featuring female operators of all kinds of things that go.

In Johnson's profound but simple poem and Crews' accompanying collage illustrations, girls are encouraged to reject societal limitations and naysayers and embrace their own power and agency.

Traditional protectors of the water in Ojibwe culture, women are standing up, rallying their allies, and defending those who cannot fight for themselves.

Best friends Eunice and Kate have very different dreams for the future, and come into conflict as a result. With help from their mothers, they find a way to accept each other.

A confident Black child loves and defends her natural hair, even as others question why it's so big, messy, frizzy, kinky, wild, and complicated.

This text encourages girls to embrace boldness, braveness, and thoughtfulness and all the qualities that make them unique. A companion to A Boy Like You.

Ayesha is thrilled that her cousin, Ritu, is marrying her girlfriend, Chandni. Some, however, do not want to see them together. Can Ayesha find a way to help them celebrate?

Dark-skinned Sulwe wants to be beautiful and bright, like her light-skinned sister. Guided by a shooting star, she discovers she is beautiful already, inside and out.

In this re-telling of Hans Christian Anderson’s tale, Melody trades her voice for legs so she can be an explorer and makes an important friend.

Experience the safety, warmth, and comfort of the amautik through the eyes of the child anaana carries inside it.
A diverse group of girls explores an alphabet of job possibilities.

**Early Readers - Nonfiction**

An incident of discrimination on a streetcar in New York City led Lizzie Jennings to win the first legal battle for equal rights on public transportation in the United States.

This is the remarkable story of the two women who met in a London prison and went on to become key players in the fight for women’s suffrage.

A straightforward and easy to follow guide on the concept of consent for children in graphic novel format.

A biography of Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to Congress.

A biography of Shirley Chisholm’s life of action, service, and determination in seeking betterment and empowerment for all and how her legacy paved the way for others to follow.

Ethel L. Payne fought for equal rights for over fifty years as a journalist and was known as the “First Lady of the Black Press”.

Helen Martini begins caring for young lion cubs when no one else can, embarking on a long and valued career in zookeeping.


Follow the journey of Michelle Obama from lawyer to advocate for social change to First Lady of the United States, and learn to be a leader just like her.

Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins, born with cerebral palsy, joined the fight for disability rights as a child, which led to the game-changing passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This biography of civil rights activist Ella Baker details her constant fight against racial injustice and fostering community empowerment through grassroots organization and mentoring of young activists.

For more than 50 years, lawyer and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg led the fight for men and women to be equal in the eyes of the law.

In early 1900s China, when girls were often not sent to school, physicist Wu Chien Shiung pursued her education, made scientific contributions, and stood up to injustice.

As the first black woman elected to Congress, Shirley Chisholm stood up for women, children, poor people, farmworkers, Native people, and others who were often pushed aside.

Every body is a good body and each one deserves respect, love and care.

Though she was denied entrance into the circles and schools of scientists, Mary Anning became an expert on prehistoric creatures through her own research and discoveries.

Writing and publishing poetry from the age of eleven, Gwendolyn Brooks went on to become the first Black person to win the Pulitzer Prize.

This picture book biography beautifully reflects the art, the math, and the movement architect Zaha Hadid incorporated into each of her designs.

Despite being told that girls can’t blow glass, Marietta learns the artform of glassblowing from her father and invents the technique of creating rosetta beads in 15th century Italy.

Repeatedly turned away from public ice rinks for the color of her skin, Mabel Fairbanks pursued her dream of figure skating and broke barriers for herself and her students.

Middle Grade - Fiction

Shielded from the realities of abuse in her home, 10 year-old Della must come to terms with the fact that nobody did the same for her older sister.

After being sexually harassed by the boys in her sixth grade class, Lydia learns to speak out in school and when her mom’s boyfriend makes her feel uncomfortable.

Searching for clues to her Native American heritage, Edie uncovers a story of separation and loss that changes her whole world.

After witnessing the unfair treatment of girls at her school, Molly Frost starts a podcast and forms a sit-in to protest her school’s dress code.

When Riley's Red Club (a club about periods) is shut down by her school, Riley and her friends fight to prove that there is nothing wrong with getting your period.

Sora attempts to lead her brother to safety as they journey from North to South Korea by foot.

Snapdragon befriends the town witch while caring for animals and cultivating a new magic within.

When Mia moves back to Vermont after quitting gymnastics, she must learn to find her voice in order to confront a part of her past that she wants to forget.

Betita unknowingly becomes an activist while detained by the US government for being undocumented.

When a small group of sophomore girls realize that their school spends more money on football than on providing its students with basic period needs, they're determined to fight back.

### Middle Grade - Nonfiction

A graphic biography collection of 25 amazing women who created, entertained, and did hard, brave things and changed the world in the process.

This book in verse explores the lives of seven real-life women in history who didn't let gender discrimination prohibit them from pursuing careers involving math.

Role models for the next generation of girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
An eye-opening and empowering introduction to modern women artists from around the world.

Told through the perspective of astronaut Mary Cleave, this graphic novel describes the many tribulations and achievements of NASA's first women astronauts.

A modern LGBTQ+ inclusive guide for children to all things sex, gender, changing bodies, and families meant to provide information and answers to young people learning about themselves and others.

**Young Adult - Fiction**

Camino and Yahaira discover they share a father in the aftermath of his tragic death, and through their grief across countries, they are able to find healing.

Visiting Paris for the summer, Khayyam Maquet follows an art-world mystery involving Dumas, Byron, and a mysterious woman who has a story bigger than the rest.

After the tragic death of her family, Margot goes to live with the Suttons as a companion for their daughter where things are not as they seem.

On the day she gets her period for the first time, sixteen-year-old Bisou runs into the woods and defends herself against an aggressive wolf.

200 years after Cinderella’s death, Sophia teams up with Cinderella’s ancestor to defeat the Evil King, overthrow the cruel patriarchal society he created, and live happily ever after together.


**Caletti, Deb.** Girl, Unframed. 2020. 355p. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, $18.99 (9781534426979). Gr. 8-up. Sydney Reilly is spending the summer with her famous mother, but what should be a few months by the beach is instead full of unwanted attention, new love, and tragedy.


**Daniel, Suzanne.** A Girl in Three Parts. 2020. 316p. Knopf, $17.99 (9781984851079). Gr. 6-up. Raised in the sheltered triangle of her grandmothers and her father, Allegra searches for clues about her place in the world and the reasons why her mother left it.

**Deming, Sarah.** Gravity. 2019. 394p. Penguin Random House/Make Me a World, $17.99 (9780525581031). Gr. 9-12. 16-year-old Jewish and Dominican boxer, Gravity Delgado, won't let a rocky home life or her own burgeoning romance deter her from her dream of winning the Olympic gold.

**Hur, June.** The Silence of Bones. 2020. 323p. Macmillan/Feiwel & Friends, $17.99 (9781250229557). Gr. 7-12. Indentured to the police bureau in 1800 Joseon, Seol is determined to solve the murder of a young noblewoman when her superior is implicated in the crime.


Tracy Beaumont seeks to exonerate her innocent father who’s in prison while also working to save her brother from a similar fate.

Liz Lighty enters her high school’s prom race in order to earn a scholarship to her dream college.

Natalie comes to terms with her parents’ divorce with the help of her coupled-up best friends, humor, and a new romance found in the least likely person.

Six Girls form a Mock Trial team, fight sexist judges via yarn bombing, and find a little love and acceptance along the way.

Ali Greenleaf is raped by a soccer player who she always had a crush on, and Blythe Jensen attempts to befriend Ali to assuage her concerns over her sexual assault.

Skye Shin is determined to win a competition to become the next big K-Pop star, and she won’t let anyone tell her she needs to lose weight to do it.

Agnes must decide to leave the cult she grew up in to save the world in the middle of a pandemic.

A graphic novel primer on feminism that addresses and breaks down many different aspects and issues from representation and tropes, intersectionality, consent, privilege, body image.

Lita has one chance to win the Miss Meteor contest before she turns back into stardust. Can she overcome racist beauty standards and tradition to win? She might need help.
Raised as sisters, Tavia hides her status as a siren as Effie navigates family secrets. Together, they stand up to injustice and cope with their individual struggles.

Four teenage girls from different backgrounds get pregnant during a time before abortion was legal in the U.S. and navigate the vast challenges this presents.

Forced into life under an alias as a wealthy Loyalist, a young woman exercises her position of power by feeding secrets to George Washington's network of spies.

Set in Argentina, Camila Hassan dreams of playing professional fútbol, but will society and her love for Diego stop her from pursuing her passion?

Valerie’s life changes when she meets new friends, forms a band, and jumps into the Riot Grrrl movement.

Mari deals with her conservative father’s run for president and realizes she has more power than she thought.

After a shocking act of violence, Autumn leaves her body and seeks out her estranged younger sister, Ivy, unearthing deeper wounds as she tries to survive.

Pan lives in a neo-medieval world where princesses are given to competition winners. She hates it. But what happens when she meets people who are bucking the system?

Four life-long best friends navigate the big changes of senior year, not knowing that one of them will become the first female president of the United States.
Weatherford's novel in verse pays tribute to the often misunderstood and underestimated life, career, and legacy of Marilyn Monroe.

Fifteen-year-old Greer's anxiety about her breasts, self-deprecatingly nicknamed Maude and Mavis, force her into hiding her body in sweatshirts and living more in her head than in the real world.

Young Adult - Nonfiction

An introduction to some of the many BIPOC and queer women whose fight for universal suffrage did not end with the ratification of the 19th amendment.

Lifting As We Climb chronicles the racism and discrimination Black women in America faced when fighting for women's suffrage.

This Harriet Tubman biography chronicles Tubman's birth through death, highlighting her extensive list of brave risks and service for others as well as her abolitionist and feminist activism.

A powerful collection of poems celebrating and empowering Black girls and women.

Graphic memoir tells the story of Ha unexpectedly immigrating to Huntsville, Alabama from Seoul, Korea with her single mother and her struggle to adjust to life in America.

Bodies are complex, and so is our relationship to them. A diverse lineup of celebrities, authors, athletes, and artists discuss their journeys to self-acceptance in this compellingly relatable anthology.

Spanning thousands of years, many cultures, and many movements, this graphic history highlights a diverse range of women activists who’ve made an impact on their community.

**Kendall, Mikki.** Hood Feminism: Notes From The Women That a Movement Forgot. 2020. 288p. Viking, $26.00 (9780525560548). Gr. 9-up.
Collected essays address the inequity of modern feminism as defined by White women. Personal stories and cultural critiques challenge feminists to inspect the intersection of race, class, and gender.

**Khan-Cullors, Patrisse & bandele, ash.** When They Call You a Terrorist: Young Adult Edition. 2020. 245p. St. Martin’s/Wednesday $18.99 (9781250194985). Gr. 8-up.
Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Khan-Cullors shares life stories that have influenced and built the international movement.

In a seering, lyrical memoir, Chanel Miller recounts her journey as an artist, a writer, and a rape survivor.

**Committee:**
Members of the 2021 Rise: A Feminist Book Project committee are: Melissa Nemitz (co-chair), Mercer County Library System, NJ; Silvia Lin Hanick (co-chair), LaGuardia Community College (CUNY), NY; Ally Watkins, First Regional Library, MS; Ariana Hussain, The Blake School, MN; Sara Saxton, Wasilla Public Library (AK); Jean-Louise Zancanella, College of Western Idaho, ID; Mallory Caise, Lisle Library District, IL; April Moyo, Central Piedmont Community College, NC; Allison Staley, Lake Oswego Public Library, OR and Vicki Pietrus, Naperville North High School, IL.

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