



# YALSA's Award for Excellence in Nonfiction 2010-2023



YALSA's Award for Excellence in Nonfiction honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults (ages 12-18) during a November 1-October 31 publishing year

2023: **Victory. Stand!:** *Raising My Fist for Justice* written by Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes; illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile

## Finalists

*Abuela, Don't Forget Me* written by Rex Ogle

*American Murderer: The Parasite that Haunted the South* written by Gail Jarrow (J 616.9 Jar)

*A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome* written by Ariel Henley

*Unequal: A Story of America* written by Michael Eric Dyson and Marc Favreau

2022: **Ambushed!:** *The Assassination Plot Against President Garfield* written by Gail Jarrow (J 973.8 Jar)

## Finalists

*Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre* written by Brandy Colbert (YA 976.686 Col)

*From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement* written by Paula Yoo (YA 305.895 Yoo)

*In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Seconds, Minutes, Hours, Days, Weeks, Months, and Years after the 9/11 Attacks* written and illustrated by Don Brown (J GN Brown)

*The Woman All Spies Fear: Code Breaker Elizebeth Smith Friedman and Her Hidden Life* written by Amy Butler Greenfield

2021: **The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh** written by Candace Fleming (YA B Lindbergh)

## Finalists

*All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* written by Christina Soontornvat (J 796.525 Soo)

*The Cat I Never Named: A True Story of Love, War, and Survival* written by Amra Sabic-El-Rayess with Laura L. Sullivan (YA FICTION Sabic-El-Rayess)

*How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure* written and illustrated by John Rocco (J 629.454 Roc)

*You Call This Democracy?: How to Fix Our Democracy and Deliver Power to the People* written by Elizabeth Rusch (YA 320.973 Rus)

2020: **Free Lunch** written by Rex Ogle (YA 362.7092 Ogl)

## Finalists

*The Great Nijinsky: God of Dance* written and illustrated by Lynn Curlee

*A Light in the Darkness: Janusz Korczak, His Orphans, and the Holocaust* written by Albert Marrin (YA 940.53 Mar)

*A Thousand Sisters: The Heroic Airwomen of the Soviet Union in World War II* written by Elizabeth Wein (YA 940.54 Wei)

*Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship"* written by Deborah Heiligman (YA 940.54 Hei)

- 2019: **The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees** written and illustrated by Don Brown  
(YA GRAPHIC NOVEL Brown)  
Finalists  
*The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor* written by Sonia Sotomayor  
*Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam* written by Elizabeth Partridge (YA 959.704 Par)  
*The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler* written and illustrated by John Hendrix (JB Bonhoeffer)  
*Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction* written and illustrated by Jarrett J. Krosoczka (YA GRAPHIC NOVEL Krosoczka)
- 2018: **Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers** written by Deborah Heiligman (YA B Van Gogh)  
Finalists  
*#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women* edited by Mary Beth Leatherdale and Lisa Charleyboy (YA 970.004 Not)  
*Eyes of the World: Robert Capa, Gerda Taro, and the Invention of Modern Photojournalism* written by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos (YA 779.092 Aro)  
*The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives* written by Dashka Slater (YA FICTION Slater)  
*The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked, and Found* written by Martin W. Sandler
- 2017: **March: Book Three** written by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell (YA GRAPHIC NOVEL Lewis)  
Finalists  
*Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History* written by Karen Blumenthal (YA B Clinton)  
*In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives* written by Kenneth C. Davis (YA 973.0496 Dav)  
*Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune* written by Pamela S. Turner (YA B Yoshitsune)  
*This Land is Our Land: A History of American Immigration* written by Linda Barrett Osborne (J 304.80973 Osb)
- 2016: **Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War** written by Steve Sheinkin (YA 959.704 She)  
Finalists  
*Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad* written by M.T. Anderson (YA 940.5421 And)  
*Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir* written by Margarita Engle (YA B Engle)  
*First Flight Around the World: The Adventures of the American Fliers Who Won the Race* written by Tim Grove  
*This Strange Wilderness: The Life and Art of John James Audubon* written by Nancy Plain
- 2015: **Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek** written by Maya Van Wagenen  
Finalists  
*Laughing at My Nightmare* written by Shane Burcaw  
*The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, & the Fall of Imperial Russia* written by Candace Fleming (YA 947.08 Fle)  
*Ida M. Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business—and Won!* written by Emily Arnold McCully (JB Tarbell)  
*The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights* written by Steve Sheinkin (J 940.54 She)
- 2014: **The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi** written by Neal Bascomb  
Finalists  
*Go: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design* written by Chip Kidd (YA 740 Kid)  
*Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans During World War II* written by Martin W. Sandler (YA 940.53 San)  
*Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles, American's First Black Paratroopers* written by Tanya Lee Stone (J 940.54 Sto)  
*The President Has Been Shot! The Assassination of John F. Kennedy* written by James L. Swanson (YA 973.922 Swa)

- 2013: **Bomb: The Race to Build-and Steal-the World's Most Dangerous Weapon** written by Steve Sheinkin (J 623.4 She)  
Finalists  
*Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different, a biography* written by Karen Blumenthal (YA B Jobs)  
*Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95* written by Phillip Hoose (J 598.072 Hoo)  
*Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* written by Deborah Hopkinson (YA 910.9163 Hop)  
*We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March* written by Cynthia Levinson (J 323.1196 Lev)
- 2012: **The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, & Treachery** written by Steve Sheinkin (YA 973.3 She)  
Finalists  
*Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science* written by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos (YA 664.109 Aro)  
*Bootleg, Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition* written by Karen Blumenthal (YA 363.4 Blu)  
*Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way)* written by Sue Macy (J 796.6082 Mac)  
*Music was IT: Young Leonard Bernstein* written by Susan Goldman Rubin (JB Bernstein)
- 2011: **Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing** written by Ann Angel (YA B Joplin)  
Finalists  
*They Called Themselves the KKK: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group* written by Susan Campbell Bartoletti  
*Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement* written by Rick Bowers  
*The Dark Game: True Spy Stories* written by Paul Janeczko (J 327.12 Jan)  
*Every Bone Tells a Story: Hominin Discoveries, Deduction, and Debates* written by Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw (YA 930.1 Rub)
- 2010: **Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith** written by Deborah Heiligman (YA 576.82096 Hei)  
Finalists  
*Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream* written by Tanya Lee Stone (YA 629.45 Sto)  
*Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* written by Phillip Hoose (YA B Colvin)  
*The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum* written by Candace Fleming (JB Barnum)  
*Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland* written by Sally M. Walker (YA 614.17 Wal)