



Juvenile and Young Adult Autobiographies at Hillsboro Public Library

Boitano, Brian. *Boitano's Edge: Inside the Real World of Figure Skating.* 1997. Olympic ice skating champion Brian Boitano describes the sport of figure skating and his own experiences as a skater.

Bridges, Ruby. *Through My Eyes.* 1999. Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960.

Byars, Betsy. *The Moon and I.* 1991. While describing her humorous adventures with a blacksnake, Betsy Byars recounts childhood anecdotes and explains how she writes a book.

Cohen, Sasha. *Fire on Ice: Autobiography of a Champion Figure Skater.* 2006. A look into the life of skater Sasha Cohen from her years as a gymnast to her achievements as a professional skater. The book ends shortly before the 2006 Winter Olympics.

Cole, Joanna. *On the Bus with Joanna Cole, a Creative Autobiography.* 1996. The author discusses her life, how she came to be a writer, where she gets her ideas from, and what is involved in producing a book.

Dahl, Roald. *Boy: Tales of Childhood.* 1984. Presents humorous anecdotes from the author's childhood which includes summer vacations in Norway and an English boarding school.

de Paola, Tomie. *26 Fairmount Avenue.* 1999. Children's author-illustrator Tomie de Paola describes his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy. Sequels: *Here We All Are*; *On My Way*; *What a Year*.

Filipovic, Zlata. *Zlata's Diary.* 1994. A chronicle of the war in Sarajevo from a child's perspective details Zlata's struggle for survival and a normal life in a chaotic nation.

Fleischman, Sid. *The Abracadabra Kid, a Writer's Life.* 1996. The autobiography of the Newbery award-winning children's author who set out from childhood to be a magician.

Frank, Anne. *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl.* 1967. Traces the life of the young Jewish girl whose diary chronicles the years she and her family hid from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic.

Gantos, Jack. *Hole in My Life.* 2002. The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

George, Jean Craighead. *A Tarantula in My Purse: and 172 Other Wild Pets.* 1996. A collection of autobiographical stories about raising a houseful of children and wild pets including crows, skunks, and raccoons.

Gilbreth, Frank B. *Cheaper by the Dozen.* 1948. What do you get when you put twelve lively kids together with a father who believes a family can be run like a factory and a mother who is his partner in everything except discipline?

Jacobsen, Ruth. *Rescued Images: Memories of a Childhood in Hiding.* 2001. Jacobsen was eight when she and her parents fled to the Netherlands to escape the Nazis. For six years, most of the time spent separated from her parents, she was hidden by the Resistance. Although the family survived the war, within a few years of its end both parents had committed suicide, and Jacobsen found refuge in America.

Jiang, Ji-Li. *Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution.* 1997. A true-story of Ji-li Jiang, twelve year-old girl, whose family is accused of capitalist crimes during China's Cultural Revolution.

Kehret, Peg. *Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio.* 1996. The author describes her battle against polio and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.

Lewin, Ted. *I was a Teenage Professional Wrestler.* 1993. The author-illustrator describes his early days supporting himself as a professional wrestler.

Lobel, Anita. *No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War.* 1998. The author, known as an illustrator of children's books, describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards.

Moceanu, Dominique. *Dominique Moceanu, an American Champion: An Autobiography.* 1996. At thirteen, Dominique Moceanu burst into the gymnastic spotlight by becoming the youngest U.S. national gymnastics champion ever. In her own words, she talks about her life in and out of the gym.

Moody, Ralph. *Little Britches: Father and I were Ranchers.* 1950. Ralph Moody was eight-years-old in 1906 when his family moved from New Hampshire to a Colorado ranch. Through his eyes we experience the pleasures and perils of ranching there early in the 20th century including auctions and roundups, family picnics, irrigation wars, tornadoes and wind storms.

O'Grady, Scott. *Basher 5-2: The True Story of F-16 Fighter Pilot Captain Scott O'Grady.* 1997. U.S. Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady was shot down in his F-16 over Bosnia, the plane exploded, and Captain O'Grady fell five miles to the ground below. O'Grady tells how he evaded capture and how, with little water and no food, he was able to survive on his own in enemy territory.

Ohno, Apolo Anton. *A Journey: The Autobiography of Apolo Anton Ohno.* 2002. The autobiography of the controversial young American who won gold and silver medals in speed skating at the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Paulsen, Gary. *How Angel Peterson Got His Name.* 2003. Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

_____. *My Life in Dog Years.* 1998. Paulsen reveals bits and pieces of his own life story through his experiences with eight of his dogs, among them, his first dog, Snowball; Dirk, who protected him from bullies; and Cookie, who saved his life.

Peet, Bill. *Bill Peet, an Autobiography.* 1989. An inside look at the life and work of Bill Peet, author of more than thirty books including Pamela the Camel and Chester the Worldly Pig, as well as contributor to Disney movies such as *101 Dalmatians*, *Cinderella*, *Dumbo*, and *Pinocchio*.

Reiss, Johanna. *The Upstairs Room.* 1990. In this Newbery winning novel, a Dutch Jewish girl describes the two-and-a-half years she spent hiding in the upstairs bedroom of farmer's house during World War II.

Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis.* 2003. In black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Knots in My Yo-yo String, the Autobiography of a Kid.* 1998. Newbery medalist Jerry Spinelli presents a humorous account of his childhood from first memories through high school, including first kiss, first punch, first trip to the principal's office, and first humiliating sports experience.

Stine, R.L. *It Came from Ohio: My Life as a Writer.* 1997. The prolific author of horror books talks about his childhood, his dreams of becoming a writer, and his eventual success with the *Fear Street* and *Goosebumps* series. Black-and-white photos of the author, his family, and friends, as well as some of the cartoons he did as a young man, are sprinkled throughout.

Tillage, Leon. *Leon's Story.* 1997. The son of a North Carolina sharecropper recalls the hard times faced by his family and other African-Americans in the first half of the 20th century and the changes that the civil rights movement helped bring about.

Uchida, Yoshiko. *The Invisible Thread, an Autobiography.* 1991. Children's author, Yoshiko Uchido, describes growing up in Berkeley, California, as a Nisei, second generation Japanese American, and her family's internment in a Nevada concentration camp during World War II.

Wilder, Laura. *On the Way Home: The Diary of a trip from South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri, in 1894.* 1962. In 1894, Laura's frontier family packed their belongings into their covered wagon and set out on a journey from South Dakota to Missouri. They heard that the soil there was rich and the crops were bountiful and they had hopes of beginning a new life. During their journey Laura kept a detailed diary of events: the cities they passed through, the travelers they encountered on the way, the changing countryside and the trials of an often difficult trip. Laura's words reveal her inner thoughts as she traveled with her family in search of a new home in Mansfield where she would write her *Little House* books.

Zhang, Song Nan. *A Little Tiger in the Chinese Night, an Autobiography in Art.* 1993. A Chinese artist recounts his life through illustrations, from fleeing Japanese invaders as a boy in Shanghai in 1944, through working in construction camps under the harsh Communist regime, to sympathizing with the Tiananmen demonstrators in 1989.