CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH IN MEMOIRS

The Newton Free Library has a very large collection of books that tell, at least in part, the remembered stories of childhood and youth. Other titles may be found using the computer catalogue and doing a subject search for “Childhood and youth.” Sort through the computer generated listing alphabetically or by date, with the newest tiles at the top of the list. Ask a Reference Librarian if you need help in locating a particular title. The call number of the books on this list is printed and underlined after each book title.

Ahmad, Imran. The Perfect Gentleman: A Muslim Boy Meets the West: A Memoir. BIO A286 .AH 2012 Imran Ahmad addresses serious issues in a deceptively light way, and will leave readers both thinking deeply and laughing out loud.

Albright, Madeleine Korbel. Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937 – 1948. BIO A342 .AL 2012 Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has written a moving and thoughtful memoir of her formative years in Czechoslovakia.

Alda, Alan. Never Have Your Dog Stuffed: And Other Things I've Learned. 791.49 ALDA .AL 2005 Alda, star of television’s M*A*S*H, recalls his childhood traveling around the country following his father's career and hanging out with unusual characters from his father's burlesque shows, while at the same time dealing with real adolescent troubles.

Beaver, Mark. Suburban Gospel: A Memoir. BIO B386 .BE 2016 A humorous and candid memoir of “a good Baptist boy” coming of age in the suburbs of Atlanta in the 1980s. After his 13th birthday, he describes his attempts to reconcile his adolescent interests with his evangelical upbringing.

Broderick, Colin. That's That: A Memoir. BIO B784 .BR 2013 A deeply personal account of what it was like for a young Catholic to come of age during the nearly 20-year war in Northern Ireland.

Carter, Jimmy. An Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood. 973.926 C24H 2001 The former president offers an account of growing up on a Georgia farm during the Depression and provides profiles of the people who shaped his life.

Cistaro, Melissa. Pieces of My Mother: A Memoir. BIO C497 .CI 2015 When Cistaro was only four, her mother abandoned the family. This memoir recounts one woman's life surviving the crisis and her quest to discover what drives a mother to walk away from the children she loves.

Eicher, Jerry S. My Amish Childhood. 823.09 E34 .EI 2013 Bestselling fiction author Jerry S. Eicher has written a moving memoir of his life growing up Amish that will appeal to readers curious about Amish life.

Fogle, Bruce. Barefoot at the Lake: A Boyhood Summer in Cottage Country. BIO F689 .FO 2015 Fogle's memoir recalls the summer of 1954 when he was 10, staying with his family in a cottage on the shores of Lake Chemong, north of Toronto, "when life is perfect."

Grande, Reyna. The Distance Between Us: A Memoir. BIO G763 .GR 2012 An award-winning novelist writes about life before and after illegally emigrating from Mexico to the United States.

Grimsley, Jim. How I Shed My Skin: Unlearning the Racist Lessons of a Southern Childhood. BIO G884 .GR 2015 Grimsley was 11 in 1966 when North Carolina began its first efforts at desegregation. He recalls his reaction to his first real exposure to black children and to their culture.

Halberstadt, Michèle. La Petite: A Memoir. 791.49 H128 .HA 2012 An awards winning writer has writes about the little girl she once was, who overcame her adolescent grief and solitude.


King, Mary Anna. Bastards: A Memoir. BIO K585 .KI 2015 King’s memoir sets forth the feelings of loss, loneliness, and alienation King had as she grew up being raised by her grandparents after her mother sent her and two siblings away. Moving, haunting, and at times wickedly funny, Bastards is about finding one's family and oneself.
Le Clézio, J.-M. G. **The African.** 823.09 L49 .LE 2013  The recipient of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Literature, recalls his youth and the African experience of his youth.

Mabankou, Alain. **The Lights of Pointe-Noire: A Memoir.** 848.09 M113 .MA 2015  An award-winning writer left Congo in 1989, not to return for 25 years when he found a country that had changed beyond recognition. He recalls his childhood in the new-old town where he grew up.

Marafioti, Oksana. **American Gypsy.** BIO M323 .MA 2012  Marafioti cracks open the secretive world of the Roma and writes about her adjustment to a new life in America.

Mayfield, Katherine. **The undertaker's daughter.** BIO M453 .MA 2015  This is a memoir about a young girl growing up in 1960s small town Kentucky living in a funeral home, and Kate's father.. The memoir is a mixture of drama and comedy.


Mda, Zakes. **Sometimes There Is a Void: Memoirs of an Outsider.** 823.09 M584 .MI 2011  A South African novelist recounts his youth during a time of political turbulence in South Africa.

Morrison, Joan. **Home Front Girl: A Diary of Love, Literature, and Growing Up in Wartime America.** BIO M834 .MO 2013  A vivid account of a real American girl's lived experiences during the Depression and the years leading up to World War II.

Porpora, Kenny. **The Autumn Balloon: A Memoir.** BIO P827 .PO 2015  A memoir of a deeply dysfunctional but loving family, which traces his life from the chaos of his youth to his triumphs in the Ivy League and later as a writer for The New York Times. The book is a beautifully written testament to the irreplaceable bonds of family, even under the most trying circumstances.

Ripert, Eric. **32 Yolks: From My Mother's Table To Working the Line.** BIO R482 .RI 2016  Ripert has created a wonderful memoir about his early days as a chef, first in his mother’s kitchen and later in some of the finest restaurant kitchens in the world.

Rips, Nicolaia. **Trying to Float: Coming of Age in the Chelsea Hotel.** BIO R486 .RI 2016  Growing up in New York City in the city's famed Chelsea Hotel is an adventure that high school student Rips describes with wit and humor. Readers will be moved by her descriptions of the hotel residents and her struggle to make friends and fit in at school.


Safran, Joshua. **Free Spirit: Growing Up On the Road and Off the Grid.** BIO S128 .SA 2013  A bittersweet, but funny story of a childhood unlike any other as he reconnects with his Jewish roots.

Said, Najla. **Looking For Palestine: Growing Up Confused In an Arab-American Family.** BIO S132 .SA 2013  A frank and entertaining memoir of a youth struggling with his identity.

Weinberg, Felix Jiri. **Boy 30529: A Memoir.** 940.531 W43B 2013  A World War II tale of survival, horror and determination as lived by a boy who was 12 when he was sent to a concentration camp.

Williams, Barbara. **The Hope in Leavin: A Memoir.** BIO W671 .WI 2016  Emmy award-winning actress Barbara Williams writes about her brutal yet often beautiful childhood in a British Columbian logging town. The family lived a hard small-town life, but Williams always hoped for a better life.

Williams, Mary. **The Lost Daughter.** BIO W674 .WI 2013  A daughter of the Black Panther movement tells her remarkable life story of being raised amid violence and poverty, adopted as a teenager by Jane Fonda, and finding her way back home.

Wright, iO Tillett. **Darling Days.** 2016. Biography Wright, I  A story of the author's loving but frustrating relationship with a mother who marches to the beat of her own drum; it is also about the harmful effects of gentrification and drug addiction. In the midst of all this, Wright struggles with gender identity as she is growing up.

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