Stranger than Fiction

Nonfiction Reader’s Advisory for the Faint of Heart

John Berkeland
Laura Jean Norris
Who is the author: POV and Intent
Reference vs Readers’ Advisory

Does a patron have a specific question or want books on a subject?
Task and Non-Task Related Books

Reader’s Advisory Guide to Nonfiction by Neal Wyatt divides all nonfiction books into two categories:
4 Influences on Reader’s Reaction

- Narrative Context: Does it tell a story or discuss ideas
- Subject: What the reader wants to read about
- Type: What type of book.
- Appeal: Pacing, Characterization, storyline, detail, learning/experiencing, language, setting, and tone
Non-Task Related Nonfiction Genres

- Nonfiction Genres
  - True Adventure
  - Travel
  - True Crime
  - Environmental Writing

- Subject Interests
  - Science & Math
  - Sports
  - Texas
Non-Task Related Nonfiction Genres

- Life Stories
  - History
  - Biography
  - Memoirs and Autobiography
  - Relationships

- Stylistic Genres
  - Investigative Writing
  - Making Sense
True Adventure

- Yokohama Burning
  - The Deadly 1923 Earthquake and Fire That Helped Forge the Path to World War II
  - Joshua Hammer

- In the Kingdom of Ice
  - Hampton Sides
  - National Bestseller
  - Author of Ghost Soldiers
  - The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette

- The Boys in the Boat
  - Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics
  - Daniel James Brown

- Unbroken
  - A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption
  - Laura Hillenbrand
  - Four Years on the New York Times Bestseller List
Travel
Travel
True Crime
True Crime

- Orange is the New Black
  - By Piper Kerman
- American Fire
  - By Monica Hesse
- Fatal Vision
  - By Joe McGinniss
- Bones
  - By Joe Tone
Environmental Writing
Environmental Writing
Science & Math
Sports
Sports

- What Made Maddy Run: The Secret Struggles and Tragic Death of an All-American Teen by Kate Fagan
- The Streak: Lou Gehrig, Cal Ripken Jr., and Baseball's Most Historic Record by John Eisenberg
- Clemente: The Passion and Grace of Baseball's Last Hero by David Maraniss
- Still Life with Brook Trout by John Gierach
Texas
History
Autobiographies, Biographies, and Memoirs, oh my!

- **Autobiography**: An account of a person’s life written by that person.
- **Biography**: An account of a person’s life written by someone else.
- **Memoir**: A historical account or biography written from personal knowledge or special sources.

❖ **Source**: OED online
Biography
Biography
Memoirs & Autobiography

Dear Diary,
Memoirs & Autobiography

- John Saunders: Playing Hurt
- Trevor Noah: Born a Crime
- Hope Jahren: Lab Girl
Relationships
Relationships
Investigative Writing
Making Sense
Making Sense of...
Awards

- J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize
- Baillie Gifford Prize for Nonfiction
- Pulitzer Prize in General Non-Fiction
- National Book Award in Non-Fiction
- ALA Black Caucus (BCALA) Nonfiction Awards
- LAMBDA Literary Awards
- ALA Notable Books List: Nonfiction
- The Indies Choice Book Award
Non-Fiction RA Internet Resources

Book Browse

Book Reporter

Book Riot

Boston Public Library’s Reader’s Corner

Curled Up With a Good Book: Nonfiction

Gnooks
Non-Fiction RA Internet Resources

Genrefluent

Indie Bound

Kirkus

NPR Books

Nancy Pearl Reads

Overbooked: The Next Chapter
Non-Fiction RA Podcasts

After Words

Longform

Book Riot

Kirkus: Fully Booked
Additional Resources


Questions?

Talking Book Program
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
PO Box 12927
Austin TX 78711-2927

Ftoll free in Texas 1-800-252-9605
In Austin 512-463-5458
Fax 512-936-0685

Email tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov
www.texastalkingbooks.org