

## Social Sciences

**Agee, James.** A Death in the Family. 1957. Fic Age. d

The enchanted childhood summer of 1915 suddenly becomes a baffling experience for Rufus Follet when his father dies.

**Albom, Mitch.** Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson. New York: Doubleday, 1997. B Alb. t

Mitch Albom's Tuesday night visits with his dying sociology professor, Morrie, offer valuable lessons about the art of living and dying with dignity.

**Angelou, Maya.** I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. Maya Angelou. 1970. B Ang. i

An African American writer, poet, and actress traces her coming of age.

**Atkin, S. Beth.** Voices from the Streets: Young Former Gang Members Tell Their Stories. 1996. 364.106 Atk. v

Gang members from all races and backgrounds describe why they joined, and why--and how--they left.

**Atwood, Margaret.** The Handmaid's Tale. 1986. Fic Atw. h

In Gilead, a Christian fundamentalist dystopia, fertile lower-class women serve as birth mothers for the upper class.

**Brumberg, Joan Jacobs.** The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls. 1997. 305.235 Bru. b

The historical evolution of body perception has turned the value system of American girls inside out.

**Best, Joel.** Damned Lies and Statistics: Untangling Numbers From the Media, Politicians, and Activists. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001. 303.38 Bes. d

Do you know the difference between "good" and "bad" statistics or how statistics and public policy are connected?

**Butler, Octavia.** Parable of the Sower. 1993. Fic But. p

Lauren Olamina, who suffers from a hereditary trait called "hyperempathy" that causes her to feel others' pain physically, journeys north along the dangerous highways of twentieth-first century California.

**Carson, Rachel.** Silent Spring. 1962. 333.7 Car. s

This landmark book gave birth to the environmental movement.

**Conover, Ted.** Newjack, Guarding Sing Sing. New York: Knopf, 2000. B Con. n

Gripping and sometimes humorous insider's look at Sing Sing prison, through the eyes of a writer who worked for a year as a corrections officer.

**Diamond, Jared.** Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies. New York: W. W. Norton, 1997. 303.4 Dia. g

Why do some societies become rich and powerful while others remain poor and powerless? Diamond contends that three elements, guns, germs and steel, determined the course of history.

**Dershowitz, Alan M.** Why Terrorism Works: Understanding the Threat, Responding to the Challenge. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2002. 303.625 Der. w

Focusing on the idea that terrorism is caused largely by the actions of Western governments, Dershowitz suggests steps to reduce the frequency and severity of these attacks.

**Dorris, Michael.** The Broken Cord. 1989. 362.29 Dor. b

The persistent physical and emotional problems of his adopted son baffled the author until he learned the condition had a name: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

**Doyle, William.** An American Insurrection: The Battle of Oxford, Mississippi, 1962. New York: Doubleday, 2001. 378.762 Doy. a

When James Meredith decided to integrate the University of Mississippi, it caused the worst crisis in American history since the Civil War.

**Ehrenreich, Barbara.** Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2001. 305.569 Her. n

Can you really survive on minimum wage? To find out, the author left her middle-class life for a year to see what life is really like for America's working poor.

**Ellison, Ralph.** Invisible Man. 1952. Fic Ell. i

A young African American seeking identity during his high school and college days, and later in New York's Harlem, relates his terrifying experiences.

**Faludi, Susan.** Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women. 1991. 305.420973 Fal. b

This unflinching analysis examines the current status of American women.

**Gould, Stephen Jay.** The Mismeasure of Man. 1981. 153.9 Gou. m

Gould's history of the attempt to quantify intelligence could be called the "misuse of science."

**Haddon, Mark.** The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. New York: Doubleday, 2003. Fic Had. c

Christopher has two mysteries to solve: who killed Wellington the dog, and what happened to his mother. But Christopher, who is autistic, approaches these mysteries and the world itself in a unique and special way.

**Hafner, Katie and Matthew Lyon.** Where Wizards Stay Up Late: The Origins of the Internet. 1996. 004.67 Haf. w

The origins of the world's first computer network are explained, with tales of the motivations, breakthroughs, and personalities that created it.

**Hansberry, Lorraine.** Raisin in the Sun. 1959. 812.54 Han. r

The sudden appearance of money tears an African American family apart.

**Hart, Elva Trevino.** The Barefoot Heart: Stories of a Migrant Child. Tempe, AZ: Bilingual Press, 1999. B Har. b

This honest and moving memoir follows a migrant child and her family as they travel from their home in New Mexico to the farm fields of Minnesota and Wisconsin in search of work.

**Hersch, Patricia.** A Tribe Apart: A Journey into the Heart of American Adolescence. 1998. 305.235 Her. t

An intimate three-year journey through contemporary adolescence with eight "typical" teens reveals a separate culture spawned not from personal choice, but rather from adult alienation and abandonment.

**Humes, Edward.** No Matter How Loud I Shout: A Year in the Life of Juvenile Court. 1996. 345 Hum. h

Humes paints a tragic and heartbreaking portrait of the chaos characterizing America's juvenile justice system where, as one inmate writes, "my screams have no voice, no matter how loud I shout."

**Huxley, Aldous.** Brave New World. 1932. Fic Hux. b

In a chilling vision of the future, babies are produced in bottles and exist in a mechanized world without soul.

**Katz, Jon.** Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho. New York: Broadway Books, 2001. 338.761 Kat. g

Eric and Jesse, poor students and online geeks, find their obsession with computers and technology is their ticket to college and success.

**Karnos, David D. and Robert G. Shoemaker,** editors. Falling in Love With Wisdom: American Philosophers Talk About Their Calling. 1993. 191 Kar.f

Contemporary philosophers share their contemplations and epiphanies.

**Kozol, Jonathan.** Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools. 1991. 371.967 Koz. s

Kozol's stinging indictment of America's public school system advocates an equal distribution of per pupil funding to right the gross inequities in our current system.

**Khanga, Yelena.** Soul to Soul: A Black Russian American Family, 1865-1992. Yelena Khanga and Susan Jacoby. 1992. B Kha. s

A young Russian journalist of African American and Jewish heritage analyzes and compares attitudes on race, religion, and sexism in Russia and America.

**Krakauer, John.** Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster. 1997. 796.52 Kra. i

His dream expedition to Everest became a nightmare when human error and a sudden storm combined to claim the lives of some of the world's best

mountain climbers.

**Kushner, Tony.** Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes. Pt.1, Millennium Approaches (1992); Pt.2, Perestroika (1993). 812.54 Kus. a

Kushner chronicles AIDS in America during the Reagan era.

**Larson, Jonathan.** Rent. 1996. 782.14 Lar. r

This award-winning musical depicts life, death, passion, and loyalty among AIDS-stricken artists.

**Latifa [pseud.].** My Forbidden Face: Growing Up Under the Taliban; A Young Woman's Story. New York: Hyperion Press, 2002. 305.40958 Lat.

Sixteen-year-old Latifa dreamed of becoming a professional journalist until the Taliban's repression of women changed her life.

**Mcbride, JAMES AND RUTH Mcbride-JORDAN.** The Color of Water: a Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother. James McBride. 1996. B McB. c

McBride blends his story with that of his mother, who battled poverty and racism to raise twelve children.

**MALCOLM X.** Malcolm X with the Assistance of Alex Haley. 1965. B. Mal. a

A great and controversial Black Muslim figure relates his transformation from street hustler to religious and national leader.

**O'Connor, Flannery.** Everything That Rises Must Converge. 1965. SC O'Co. e

Stories about misfits in small Southern towns force the reader to confront hypocrisy and complacency.

**Occhiogrosso, Peter.** The Joy of Sects: A Spirited Guide to the World's Religious Traditions. 1994. 291 Occ. j

This lively, easy to understand guidebook is for everyone from the faithful believer to the curious doubter.

**Pipher, Mary.** The Middle of Everywhere: The World's Refugees Come to Our Town. New York: Harcourt, 2002. 305.90691 Pip. m

An exploration of the difficulties and struggles of refugees settled by the United States government in Lincoln, Nebraska as they try to adjust and build a life in America.

**Pipher, Mary.** Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls. 1994. 305.2 Pip. r

Pipher looks at societal "girl poisoning" and the emotional and psychological havoc it wreaks on the lives of young women.

**Schlosser, Eric.** Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001. 394.1 Sch. f

The growth of the fast food industry has changed America's eating habits and greatly impacted agriculture, the meatpacking industry, the minimum wage, and other aspects of American life.

**Senna, Danzy.** Caucasia. New York: Riverhead Books, 1998. Fic Sen. c

Separated when their parents' interracial marriage ends in divorce, light-skinned Birdie and her dark-skinned sister Cole lead very different lives while hoping for a reunion with one another.

**Simon, David and Edward Burns.** The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Neighborhood. 1997. 364.177 Sim. c

Crack owns this corner and infects the lives of all those within reach.

**Simon, Rachel.** Riding the Bus with My Sister: A True Life Journey. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002. 306.875 Sim. c

Rachel Simon's sister, who has mental retardation, spends her days riding buses in the Pennsylvania city where she lives. When Rachel begins to accompany her sister on the bus, she learns a lot about her sister and her disability, and about her own limitations.

**Turner, Sugar and Tracy Bachrach Ehlers.** Sugar's Life in the Hood: The Story of a Former Welfare Mother. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2003. B. Tur. s

An anthropologist who befriends a welfare mother learns about her world and the strategies she uses to get off welfare and into college.

**Wheelan, Charles.** Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science. New York: W. W. Norton, 2002. 330 Whe. n

Without using charts, graphs or jargon, Wheelan makes economics understandable, even interesting, as he demystifies basic concepts and applies them to everyday life.

**Wilson, August.** Fences: A Play. 1986. 812.54 Wil. f

A garbage man recalls his career as a Negro League baseball star.

**Wright, Richard.** Black Boy: A Record of Childhood and Youth. Richard Wright. 1945. B Wri. b

Wright recalls his pre-World War II youth when racial and personal obstacles seemed insurmountable.