

The Female Experience in Literature

Our library is chock-full of books with awesome female characters and histories. Here's a short list of some of our favorites; check out the Library's [Online Catalog](#) and [Overdrive](#) for more ideas and book summaries.

Fiction

Try anything by these authors:

Alvarez, Julia
Anderson, Laurie Halse
Angelou, Maya
Bray, Libba
Blume, Judy
Collins, Suzanne
Dessen, Sarah
Hopkinson, Nalo
Lo, Malinda

Lowry, Lois
Morrison, Toni
Peters, Julie Ann
Pierce, Tamora
Mass, Sarah
Plath, Sylvia
Roth, Veronica
Williams-Garcia, Rita
Woolf, Virginia

Individual titles to try:

Audacity- Crowder, Melanie
Dime- Frank, E.R.
What We Saw- Hartzler, Aaron
Under a Painted Sky- Lee, Stacey
Devoted- Mathieu, Jennifer
Dumplin'- Murphy, Julie
Kissing in America- Rabb, Margo
All the Rage- Summers, Courtney
Paper Hearts- Wiviott, Meg
The True Confessions Charlotte Doyle- Avi
Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale- Black, Holly
Graceling- Cashore, Kristin
The House on Mango Street- Cisneros, Sandra
The Midwife's Apprentice- Cushman, Karen
The Handmaid's Tale- Atwood, Margaret
Mare's War- Davis, Tanita S.
The Skin I'm In- Flake, Sharon
Breathing Underwater- Flinn, Alex
Out of the Dust- Hesse, Karen
The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks- Lockhart, E.
The Member of the Wedding- McCullers, Carson
Flygirl- Smith, Sherri
Thunder over Kandahar- McKay, Sharon E.
Imani All Mine- Porter, Connie Rose
Uglies- Westerfeld, Scott
The Book Thief- Zusak, Markus
Out of Darkness- Pérez, Ashley Hope
Gabi, a Girl in Pieces- Quintero, Isabel

Rebel of the Sands- Hamilton, Alwyn
Ink and Ashes- Maetani, Valynne E.
Remix- Pratt, Non
A Thousand Nights- Johnston, E.K.
Only Ever Yours- O'Neill, Louise
The Lie Tree- Hardinge, Frances
Wolf by Wolf- Graudin, Ryan
Unbecoming- Downham, Jenny
The Fifth Wave- Yancey, Rick
Does My Head Look Big in This?- Abdel-Fattah, Randa
Code Name Verity- Wein, Elizabeth
The Bermudez Triangle- Johnson, Maureen
Brooklyn- Toibin, Colm
The Awakening- Chopin, Kate
My Brilliant Friend- Ferrante, Elena

Nonfiction

History of the feminist movement, modern issues, and insights into the female mind

American Girls: Social Media and The Secret Lives of Teenagers- Sales, Nancy Jo
You Don't Have to Like Me: essays on growing up, speaking out, and finding feminism -- Nugent, Alida
Shrill : notes from a loud woman- West, Lindy
Reading Lolita in Tehran : a memoir in books- Nafisi, Azar.
Queen Bees Wannabes: helping your daughter survive cliques, gossip, boyfriends and other realities of adolescence – Wiseman, Rosalind
Fierce Angels: the strong black woman in American life and culture – Parks, Sheri
Sister Citizen: shame, stereotypes, and black women in America – Harris-Perry, Melissa
Rethinking Muslim Women and the Veil: challenging historical & modern stereotypes – Bullock, Katherine
Kabul Beauty School – Rodriguez, Deborah
The Beauty Myth: how images of beauty are used against women – Wolf, Naomi
Supergirls Speak Out: inside the secret crisis of overachieving girls – Funk, Liz
The Triple Bind: saving our teenage girls from today's pressures – Hinshaw, Stephen
Fast Girls: teenage tribes and the myth of the slut – White, Emily
Rookie Yearbook One – Gevinson, Tavi
She Walks in Beauty: a woman's journey through poems – Kennedy, Caroline
Uppity Women of Ancient Times – Leon, Vicki
The Feminist Papers: from Adams to de Beauvoir – Rossi, Alice
When Everything Changed: the amazing journey of American women from 1960 to the present – Collins, Gail
33 Things Every Girl Should Know About Women's History: from Suffragettes to skirt lengths to the E.R.A. – Bolden, Tonya
Nerves Out Loud: critical moments in the lives of seven teen girls – Musgrave, Susan

Veiled Courage: inside the Afghan women's resistance – Benard, Cheryl
The Underground Girls of Kabul: in search of a hidden resistance in Afghanistan – Nordberg, Jenny
The Body Project: an intimate history of American girls – Brumberg, Joan
Reviving Ophelia: saving the selves of adolescent girls – Pipher, Mary
I Am Your Sister: collected and unpublished writings of Audre Lorde – Byrd, Rudolph
A Tyranny of Petticoats: 15 stories of belles, bank robbers, and other badass girls – Spotswood, Jessica
Ain't I a Woman: classic poetry by women from around the world – Linthwaite, Illona
Bad Feminist Essays – Gay, Roxane
We Should All Be Feminists – Adiche, Chimamanda
Playing With the Boys: why separate is not equal in sports – McDonagh, Eileen
Packaging Girlhood: rescuing our daughters from marketer's schemes – Lamb, Sharon
The Feminist Mystique – Friedan, Betty
In Our Time: memoir of a revolution – Brownmiller, Susan
Manifesta: young women, feminism, and the future- Baumgardner, Jennifer
A Little F'd Up: why feminism is not a dirty word- Zeilinger, Julie
Notorious RBG: the life and times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg- Carmon, Irin
The born frees: writing with the girls of Gugulethu- Burge, Kimberly
Alone Atop the Hill: the autobiography of Alice Dunnigan, pioneer of the national Black press- Dunnigan, Alice Allison
How to be a Heroine: or, what I've learned from reading too much- Ellis, Samantha
Headstrong: 52 women who changed science- and the world- Swaby, Rachel
Asking for it: the alarming rise of rape culture-and what we can do about it- Harding, Kate