Delve Deeper into 56 Up
A film by Michael Apted

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Linda Brawley of San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary 56 Up.

In 1964, a group of British 7-year-olds were interviewed about their lives and dreams in the groundbreaking television documentary Seven Up. Since then, renowned director Michael Apted has returned to film the same subjects every seven years, creating one of television’s greatest projects. In 56 Up, the “kids” have settled into middle age and come to terms with both hope and disappointment.

Check your local public library for the entire “Up” series.

ADULT NONFICTION


Kerckhoff, Alan C. Diverging Pathways: Social Structure and Career Deflections. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1993. This book follows the lives of a group of British friends into early adulthood and examines how different kinds of schools and environments can lead comparably skilled individuals to achieve at very different levels in society.


of Exeter and the way in which a surreal relationship of genuine and illegitimate standards stymies intellectual development among faculty, and hence, among students. It also deals with the way students’ problems with drugs, depression, sexuality, and suicide are either mishandled or ignored.


Singer, Bennett. 42 Up: “Give Me the Child Until He Is Seven, and I Will Show You the Man”. New York, NY: New Press, 1998. Transcripts from many of the episodes and interviews with the show’s participants.


ADULT FICTION


Brooke-Rose, Christine. Next. Manchester: Carcanet Press, 1998. Next is a murder mystery story set in the world of the London homeless. The story passes from character to character without a break, the reader sensing the transitions by way of inflection changes.

McEwan, Ian. On Chesil Beach. London: Jonathan Cape Ltd, 2007. McEwan delves into the complex issues of British social classes through the different perspectives of the novel’s two main characters, Edward and Florence. The social gap between them highlighted by their family’s occupations and lifestyle however, the story centers around their ill-fated attempt at intimacy on their wedding night.

Sillitoe, Alan. The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner. New York: Vintage Books, 2010. Originally published in 1959 as a short story, a teenager held in an English reformatory turns out to be a champion runner with a chance to win the trophy for his team, but as he trains, he plans a perfect way to defy those in power.

FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULT READERS

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**FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS**


Jackson, Isaac, and David Soman. *Somebody’s New Pajamas*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1996. When two boys from different backgrounds become friends and sleep over at each other’s homes, they exchange ideas about sleepwear as well as family life.