

Delve Deeper into *Brooklyn Castle*

A film by Katie Dellamaggiore

This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Erica Bess, Susan Conlon and Hanna Lee of Princeton Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Brooklyn Castle*.

*Brooklyn's I.S. 318, a powerhouse in junior high chess competitions, has won more than 30 national championships, the most of any school in the country. Its 85-member squad boasts so many strong players that the late Albert Einstein, a dedicated chess maven, would rank fourth if he were on the team. Most astoundingly, I.S. 318 is a Brooklyn school that serves mostly minority students from families living below the poverty line. **Brooklyn Castle** is the exhilarating story of five of the school's aspiring young players and how chess became the school's unlikely inspiration for academic success.*

ADULT NONFICTION

Agdestein, Simen. *Wonderboy: How Magnus Carlsen Became the Youngest Chess Grandmaster in the World*. Alkmaar, The Netherlands: New in Chess, 2004. At thirteen Magnus Carlsen became the youngest chess grandmaster in the world. This is the story of Carlsen's rise, his family life, and instructive comments on his games.

Brady, Frank. *Endgame: Bobby Fischer's Remarkable Rise and Fall - from America's Brightest Prodigy to the Edge of Madness*. New York: Crown, 2011. From the author who wrote one of the bestselling Bobby Fischer books ever and who was himself a friend of Fischer's, comes an impressively researched biography that for the first time captures the complete, remarkable arc of the life of the chess master.

Froymovich, Riva. *The End of the Good Life: How the Financial Crisis Threatens A*

***Lost Generation-- and What We Can Do About It*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2013.** Froymovich discusses the impact of the 2008 recession on millennials (defined as people being born between 1976 and 2000) and presents ideas such as political activism and creative entrepreneurship as potential solutions to the long-term side effects of financial crisis.

Kozol, Jonathan. *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*. New York: Crown, 1991. National Book Award-winning author Jonathan Kozol presents his shocking account of the American educational system in this stunning *New York Times* Bestseller. Examining American schools across the country, from New York to San Antonio, Kozol reveals vast inequities that call into question the assumption of equal opportunity through education.

Polgár, Zsuzsa and Hoainhan Truong. *Breaking Through: How the Polgar Sisters Changed the Game of Chess*. London: Gloucester Pub.; Guilford, CT: Distributed in North America by the Globe Pequot Press, 2005. Four-time Women's World Champion Susan Polgar provides a candid inside view of the lives of the Polgar sisters, chess prodigies who grew up to win World titles and Olympiad gold medals, breaking through gender and age barriers in competitive chess.

Root, Alexey W. *Children and Chess: A Guide for Educators*. Santa Barbara: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. *Children and Chess: A Guide for Educators* is the first book to show the connection between accepted educational theories and chess. It features lesson plans that teachers can use immediately, and from which they can learn the basics of the game. Since the plans meet academic goals through chess, teachers also learn that chess can be a part of reading, math, science, and social studies.

Shenk, David. *The Immortal Game: A History of Chess & Its Consequences*. New York: Doubleday, 2006. The intricate game of chess has fascinated cultures for over 1500 years. Shenk takes readers from its invention in India to its use as a moral guide in the Middle Ages, to its role in the birth of cognitive science, to its use as a learning tool for inner-city students.

Waitzkin, Josh. *The Art of Learning: A Journey in the Pursuit of Excellence*. New York: Free Press, 2007. Eight-time National Chess Champion as a youth and subject of the film *Searching for Bobby Fischer* (1993), Josh Waitzkin later expanded his horizons and studied martial arts, eventually earning several National and World Championship titles. In this book, he shares his personal journey to the top—twice—and his reflections on principles of learning and performance.

Weinreb, Michael. *The Kings of New York: A Year Among the Geeks, Oddballs, and Geniuses Who Make Up America's Top High School Chess Team*. New York: Gotham Books, 2007. Acclaimed sportswriter Weinreb chronicles a year spent with Brooklyn's Edward R. Murrow High School chess team as it prepares for the national championship tournament in Nashville. The book shares the culture of the chess world, the difficulties that women face in this male-dominated sport, and the characters of the competing students and those who are trying to help them succeed.

ADULT FICTION

DuBois, Jennifer. *A Partial History of Lost Causes*. New York: Dial Press, 2011. Thirty-year old Irina heartbreakingly watches her father Frank, a chess enthusiast, lose his battle with Huntington's Disease. Before he dies, Frank writes an unanswered letter to Russia's Aleksandr Bezetov, the world's



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most respected chess player, asking him advice on how to regain hope when all seems lost during a game of chess. When Irina is diagnosed with Huntington's Disease herself, she set out on a voyage to Russia to find the answer to her father's question.

Zweig, Stefan. *Chess Story*. New York: New York Review Books, 2006. *Chess Story*, also known as *The Royal Game*, is the Austrian master Stefan Zweig's final achievement, completed in Brazilian exile and sent off to his American publisher only days before his suicide in 1942. Travelers by ship from New York to Buenos Aires find that on board with them is the world champion of chess, an arrogant and unfriendly man. Then a mysterious passenger steps forward to advise them and their fortunes change. How he came to possess his extraordinary grasp of the game of chess and at what cost lie at the heart of Zweig's story.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Coakley, Jeff. *Winning Chess Strategy for Kids*. Montreal: Chess'n Math Association, 2000. Coakley begins at square one: covering the rules, basic mates, and elementary tactics. It then leads the student through a whole range of advanced strategies, including piece development, pawn structure, and attacking the castled king. Whether kids are learning chess for recreation or are interested in playing competitively, *Winning Chess Strategy for Kids* will help them understand the game and enjoy it more.

Fox, Janet S. *Get Organized Without Losing It*. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Pub, 2006. These days, students have so many things to keep track of – homework assignments, afterschool activities, household duties – that it's difficult to keep on top of everything. This guide helps students to have fun organizing

their responsibilities and managing their time without feeling overwhelmed.

King, Daniel. *Chess: From First Moves to Checkmate*. New York: Kingfisher, 2000. This book introduces the rules and strategies of chess, as well as its history and some of its great players and matches.

Nottingham, Ted; Al Lawrence; Robert Graham Wade. *Winning Chess: Tactics & Strategies*. New York: Sterling Pub. Co., 1999. Presents tactics and techniques for playing chess, including openings, middle-game and endgame strategies, forks, pins, skewers, and examples from the games of world champions.

Root, Alexey W. *Thinking with Chess: Teaching Children Ages 5-14*. Boston: Mongoose Press, 2012. *Thinking with Chess* is a handbook for teachers, librarians, after-school instructors, chess coaches, counselors, and parents that requires no prior knowledge of the game. Both novices and veteran chess players can use its innovative lesson plans for teaching groups of children.

Weeramantry, Sunil; Edward V. Eusebi. *Best Lessons of a Chess Coach*. New York: Random House, 1994. An innovative book on game-winning strategy for players at the intermediate level - from a master chess coach. The book's interactive teacher-student dialogue coaches players on how to think during a chess game.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Gilson, Jamie. *Chess! I Love It, I Love It, I Love It!* New York: Clarion Books, 2008. (Grades 2 to 4) When a group of second-graders at Sumac School Chess Club compete in a large tournament, the members of the club must learn to set aside their differences for the good of the team.

Neri, Greg. *Chess Rumble*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2007. (Young Adult Fiction) Branded a troublemaker due to his anger over everything from being bullied to his sister's death a year before, Marcus begins to control himself and cope with his problems at home and at his inner-city school when an unlikely mentor teaches him to play chess.

Neugebauer, Charise. *The Real Winner*. New York: North-South Books, 2000. (K to Grade 2) Rocky the Raccoon is so competitive that he turns everything he does into a contest. If he wins, he gloats; if he loses, he whines. Humphrey Hippopotamus takes him on a journey to show him the real meaning of being a winner.

Weyr, Garret. *The Kings are Already Here*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003. (Young Adult Fiction) Two teenagers, one obsessed with the world of ballet and the other with that of chess, join together in a quest across Europe and begin to learn not only how to connect with other people, but why.

Wong, Janet S. *Alex and the Wednesday Chess Club*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2004. (Grades 1 to 4) Alex's love of chess begins as a little boy when his mother fashions his first chessboard out of food. When he is crushingly defeated in a chess game by his neighbor's relative, Alex loses his joy for the game along with his self-esteem. When he decides to give it another try by joining the afterschool chess club and competing in tournaments, he discovers why he used to enjoy the challenge so much.

