

# RECOMMENDED BOOKS

## BOOKS FOR PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

***Climbing Everest: Tales of Triumph and Tragedy on the World's Highest Mountain* by Audrey Salkeld, National Geographic Children's Books, 2003 (128 pages, grades 5 and up)**

From Amazon.com:

*Climbing Everest* is a stunning illustrated history of climbing on the world's highest mountain. Divided into six chapters and featuring six sidebars and maps, this volume is packed with information and reads like the best page-turner. Triumphant summits and tragic failures are all here. Each chapter focuses on a famous climb by portraying the climber or climbing team in fascinating detail... Sidebars provide fascinating mountain information, including altitude and its effects, Everest's unique geography, the Sherpa culture, and the need for conservation on the no-longer-pristine mountain slopes. Back matter reference material includes a detailed Everest chronology, a glossary of climbing terms, an Everest Hall of Fame biography section, a chart of Everest records, a detailed bibliography and resource section, and an index.

***DK Discoveries: Everest* by Richard Platt, Dorling Kindersley, 2000 (48 pages, grades 4-8)**

From School Library Journal:

These series titles employ the familiar format of double-page chapters accompanied by numerous annotated illustrations, fact boxes, photographs, drawings, and maps. *Everest* chronicles the history of mountaineering and man's fascination with the world's highest peak. A few of the most famous expeditions are discussed and a great deal of information on climbing techniques and equipment is given. The up-to-date material includes mention of the discovery of the body of George Mallory in 1999. The high-quality color photographs and drawings make each page eye-catching and interesting. Each book also contains a double gatefold with a panoramic view. These colorful volumes are packed with information that would be useful for reports.

***Everest: Reaching for the Sky* by Joy Masoff, Scholastic Paperbacks, 2002 (48 pages, grades 2-4)**

From School Library Journal

In this easy-to-read account of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay's dangerous triumph, readers will learn about their 1953 expedition. The book includes biographical information about both men, a list of necessary equipment for climbing and camping, and a lively overview of the climbers' experiences. Readers will walk through each milestone of the journey and breathe a sigh of relief when the team reaches the summit. Throughout the book, full-color and black-and-white photographs depict the men before, during, and after their victory. These pictures help put into perspective the massive size of the mountain and the enormity of the accomplishment. The typeface is large, and the format is appealing. A concluding note to parents stresses the importance of introducing their children to nonfiction.

***Everest: Triumph and Tragedy on the World's Highest Peak* Matt Dickinson, HarperCollins, Publishers, 2002 (32 pages, grades 6 and up)**

From Publishers Weekly

Once the destination of only the hardiest of adventurers, Mount Everest has become a tourist hot spot: commercial expeditions vie for climbing rights and a 400-room luxury hotel may be built at Base Camp. Still, according to this brief and visually arresting history (ideal for younger readers but also appealing to mountain-lovers of all ages), the mountain retains its deadly mystique, offering the "adrenaline rush of extreme danger." Dickinson, a filmmaker who wrote about his own 1996 ascent of the world's highest peak in *The Other Side of Everest*, delves into the mountain's geology and ecology, explores Sherpa culture, and examines the climatic rigors that have claimed the lives of 162 climbers with slick efficiency. He also recounts the exploits of those who made it to the top (and some who died trying), including contemporary daredevils who climb without oxygen or paraglide off the summit. He ends with an account of the by-now familiar disastrous 1996 Everest expedition that took eight lives, a reminder, he feels, that the mountain can never really be tamed. The book's "interactive" gimmicks include a pop-up photo of Everest and a number of loose "documents"-maps, a Nepalese prayer-flag, facsimiles of a diary and letter from a couple of lost climbers-tucked inside small pockets; young children may find these gratifying, while adults will find them but briefly amusing.

***Mount Everest: The Highest Mountain (Great Record Breakers in Nature)* by Aileen Weintraub, Powerkids, 2001 (24 pages, grades 2-4)**

From bookdepository.com

More than 4,000 people have tried to reach the summit of Mount Everest. So far, 660 have reached the top, and another 160 have died trying. This book profiles some of the most courageous people who have been drawn to this mountain, as well as exploring the plants and animals of the area, and the cultural and mythical significance of this record-breaking giant. (Note: The numbers cited in this quote have increased dramatically since 2001).

***Sacred Mountain: Everest* by Christine Taylor-Butler, Lee & Low Books, 2009 (48 pages, grades 5-8)**

From Kirkus Reviews

Older books on Everest tended to concentrate on the story of New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay's historic ascent. This new book, with photos showing climbers from 1920 to 2008 and glimpses into the lives of the long-term inhabitants of the region, emphasizes the relationship of the Sherpa to the mountain they call Chomolungma, Goddess Mother of the World. Living for many centuries in the Himalayas, the Sherpa have adapted to the climate and the land and learned to use their limited resources. They have continued to embrace the Buddhist religion, and some of the most interesting photos picture religious practices. Taylor-Butler effectively describes the efforts of Nepal's government, Tenzing Norgay's sons and other Sherpa and several foundations dedicated to the preservation of the region and its people to keep the mountain environmentally safe while more and more climbers from many countries tackle one of the greatest challenges on earth... For young armchair travelers who may make the climb someday, this mixture of science, geography, culture and the original extreme sport is irresistible.

***The Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest* by Steve Jenkins, Sandpiper, 2002 (32 pages, grades 2-6)**

From amazon.com

In this stunning picture book, Steve Jenkins takes us to Mount Everest - exploring its history, geography, climate, and culture. This unique book takes readers on the ultimate adventure of climbing the great mountain. Travel along and learn what to pack for such a trek and the hardships one may suffer on the way to the top. Avalanches, frostbite, frigid temperatures, wind, and limited oxygen are just a few of the dangers that make scaling this peak one of the most extreme physical challenges one can experience. To stand on the top of Mount Everest is to stand on top of the world. With informative text and exquisitely detailed cut paper illustrations, Steve Jenkins brings this extreme journey alive for young adventurers.

## FOR ADULTS

***Everest: Eighty Years of Triumph and Tragedy* by Peter Gillman & Leni Gillman, Mountaineers Books, 2001 (240 pages)**

From amazon.com

This is a unique climbing history of the world's highest peak, featuring major ascents and the first-person perspectives of climbers from around the world. Included are classic accounts by Edmund Hillary on the first-ever ascent; Wang Fu-chou and Chu Yin-hua on the controversial 1960 Chinese ascent; Tom Hornbein on climbing the West Ridge; and Carlos Buhler on the first ascent of the Kangshung Face. New stories include firsthand accounts of the 1996 disaster; the story of the remarkable photographic self-portrait taken by Bruce Herrod, who disappeared after reaching the summit; and the discovery of George Mallory's body in 1999.

***Everest: The Mountaineering History* by Walt Unsworth, Mountaineers Books, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2000 (736 pages)**

From goodreads.com

This complete history, updated through 1998, tells the truth about many of the world's mountaineering heroes, about the incompetence, the pettiness, and rages as well as the courage, skill, and altruism that have gone into attempts to climb the mountain. By giving the heroes a human dimension the author has succeeded in making their achievements even more impressive than before.

***Everest: The West Ridge* by Thomas F. Hornbein, Mountaineers Books, 1998 (194 pages)**

From amazon.com

"If we can pull it off," said the climber, referring to a route up Mt. Everest's West Ridge, "it would be the biggest possible thing still to be accomplished in Himalayan mountaineering." To undertake such a route is to understand that failure is not an option; there is no turning back from the West Ridge. In 1963 Thomas Hornbein, the author of *Everest: The West Ridge*, and his partner Willi Unsoeld committed themselves to such a glory-or-death assault on the world's tallest peak. Their achievement is told within the pages of this book, one of the classic mountaineering sagas of all time.

***Ghosts of Everest: The Search for Mallory and Irvine* by Jochen Hemmleb, Larry A. Johnson, Eric R. Simonson, Mountaineers Books, 2001(208 pages)**

From amazon.com

Did Mallory and Irvine reach Everest's summit 30 years before Hillary and Tenzing? Until now, clues about what happened to these two Everest pioneers had been scant and misleading. Until now, no one has known whether they reached the summit. Until now, no one has known where or how they perished. This is a detective story of the first order. It is the story not just of Mallory and Irvine's last climb, but of the team of climbers and researchers who, together, found the body of perhaps Britain's greatest mountaineer and uncovered the startling story he had waited so long to reveal. Written by the three key members of the team, and incorporating extensive interviews with other team members, "Ghosts Of Everest" is the dramatic unfolding of both the 1999 and 1924 expeditions, woven together into a compelling narrative. This book is the definitive account and has become an instant classic.

***The Great Arc: The Dramatic Tale of How India Was Mapped and Everest Was Named* by John Keay, Harper Perennial, 2001 (224 pages)**

From Publishers Weekly

In this nicely detailed chronicle, British historian Keay (*India: A History*) portrays the arduous half-century Great Arc project as a pathbreaking scientific undertaking and as an adventure that transcended politics. He introduces George Everest, a cantankerous British colonel who, appointed surveyor-general of India, never saw the famous mountain named after him. Everest's life's work, and obsession, was the Great Indian Arc of the Meridian, a benchmark series of measurements running from India's southern tip up to the Himalayas. Begun in 1800 (Everest came on board in 1818), the Great Arc was a basic tool of British imperial domination, paving the way for commerce, conquest, the building of roads, canals, railways and settlement. Razing whole villages, appropriating sacred hills, exhausting local supplies and facilitating tax assessments, the Great Trigonometrical Survey (which spawned the Great Arc) and its sister project, the Survey of India, epitomized the mutual incomprehension and distrust that characterized British-Indian relations. While Keay gives a nod to the impact that British mapmaking had on the Indian people, his narrative, as quaintly colorful as a 19th-century watercolor, focuses on the logistics of the Great Arc (an army of men, instruments, elephants and horses hauling a half-ton theodolite and braving tiger-infested jungles), on the science of surveying and on the monumental ego of Everest, an irascible martinet whose arrogance ultimately tarnished his achievements. Maps, photos and illustrations throughout.

***The Lost Explorer: Finding Mallory on Mount Everest* by Conrad Anker and David Roberts, Simon & Schuster, 2001 (192 pages)**

From amazon.com

This is the adventure story of the year -- how Conrad Anker found the body of George Mallory on Mount Everest, casting an entirely new light on the mystery of the explorer who may have conquered Everest seventy-five years ago... On May 1, 1999, Conrad Anker, one of the world's strongest mountaineers, discovered Mallory's body lying face down, frozen into the scree and naturally mummified at 27,000 feet on Everest's north face. The condition of the body, as well as the artifacts found with Mallory, including goggles, an altimeter, and a carefully wrapped bundle of personal letters, are important clues in determining his fate. Seventeen days later, Anker free-climbed the Second Step, a 90-foot sheer cliff that is the single hardest obstacle on the north ridge. The first expedition known to have conquered the Second Step, a Chinese team in 1975, had tied a ladder to the cliff, leaving unanswered the question of whether Mallory could have climbed it in 1924. Anker's climb was the first test since Mallory's of the

cliff's true difficulty... *The Lost Explorer* is the remarkable story of this extraordinarily talented man and of the equally talented modern climber who spearheaded a discovery that may ultimately help solve the mystery of Mallory's disappearance.

***Mountaineering: Freedom Of Hills - 8th Edition: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1960-2010 by The Mountaineers, Mountaineers Books (592 pages)***

Review by Reed Business Information

This hefty tome, first published in 1960, was the book that started The Mountaineers Books. Known as "the climber's bible," it covers virtually all aspects of climbing, from choosing equipment and tying knots to basic rappelling techniques and expedition planning. There are sections on rock climbing, alpine climbing, emergency prevention and response and snow cycles, along with appendices on wind chill temperatures and suggestions for further reading. Written by a team of more than 40 expert climbers, newer editions reflect changes in equipment and technique, with new chapters on waterfall ice climbing and mixed climbing, physical conditioning, and land stewardship issues. It's also enhanced with 415 new illustrations depicting the "chimney technique" and the "twin-rope technique," among other maneuvers, and a new "ten essentials" list.

***Snow Sense: A Guide to Evaluating Snow Avalanche Hazard by Jill Fredston, Doug Fesler, Karl Birkeland , Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc.; fifth edition, 2011 (132 pages)***

Reviews

If you travel in the mountains, you understand that knowledge equates to safety. Snow Sense is your source of unparalleled wisdom. It could save your life. --Conrad Anker, Professional alpine climber and author

Praise for previous editions: No other (avalanche) teachers have more credibility...Snow Sense is by far the best material available on staying alive in avalanche country. --Steve Casimiro, Powder Magazine

Praise for previous editions: Here's a book you should have. I know, I know, everybody says that but this is different...Now notice I didn't say this is a book you should have on your bookshelf. This one should be in the top packet of your pack...Snow Sense is a hands-on, explicit, clear-thinking, hard-hitting field guide...Every time I hear of another avalanche-caused death...I wish the victim had read this book. The survivors must read it. --Mark Jenkins, Backpacker Magazine

***Tenzing: Hero of Everest: A Biography of Tenzing Norgay by Ed Douglas, National Geographic, 2003 (304 pages)***

From Publishers Weekly

U.K.-based writer, editor and mountaineer Douglas has written what his publisher is touting as "the first full biography of Tenzing Norgay," the Sherpa leader who accompanied Sir Edmund Hillary in 1953 on their pioneering 29,028-foot climb to the top of Mt. Everest. Douglas follows in the snow-covered path of last year's books by Tenzing's son, Jamling Tenzing Norgay (*Touching My Father's Soul*) and grandson Tashi Tenzing (*Tenzing Norgay and the Sherpas of Everest*). An illiterate yak herder, Tibetan-born Tenzing grew up in the shadow of Chomolungma (the Sherpa name for Everest), and in 1935 was chosen for his first expedition, although "he couldn't yet speak a word of English and had to gesture that he had no certificate from the Himalayan Club." When he reached the summit in 1953 he became "a role model for ordinary people, someone of humble birth who had made headlines around the world." Douglas

weaves numerous Everest adventurers into this tapestry of Tenzing's life, and the author's extensive mountain-climbing experience gives the book an authoritative solidity. He enumerates tragic deaths, compares contradictory passages in various written accounts and examines cultural misunderstandings, commenting on political issues triggered by Tenzing's triumph. He also covers Tenzing's later years, which were darkened by drinking and depression. This is an honest, inspiring look at one of history's great adventurers.