

Appalachian Trail Book List

A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail, by Bill Bryson

BRG 00311 ; DB 46519

Bryson relates the adventures and misadventures of two totally unfit hikers as he and longtime friend Stephen Katz traverse the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail. Returning from more than twenty years in Britain, he set out to rediscover his homeland, but the two men find themselves awed by the terrain and stymied by the unfamiliar local culture.

Black Bear's Adventure: An Appalachian Trail Journey, by Emily M. Leonard

DB 118866

Black Bear's Adventure is a charming biographical story that shows achieving your dream is always possible with lessons of respecting nature weaved in. For grades 2-4.

Blind Courage, by Bill Irwin

DB 36368

A variety of problems involving family, alcoholism, and blindness prompted middle-aged Bill Irwin's decision to tackle the 2,000-mile-long Appalachian Trail with his dog guide Orient. For eight months in 1990, the self-proclaimed non-hiker made his way along the sometimes treacherous trail--a feat he credits to God. In describing the trip, Irwin stresses the helpfulness of the other "thru-hikers" he met.

Cinnamon: A Teen's Survival and Romance on the Appalachian Trail, by Linda Y. Nowak

DBC 09665

When Aileen Foster discovers she doesn't need to take classes during her senior year in high school in order to graduate in June, she decides to use that time to hike the Appalachian Trail.

Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail, by Ben Montgomery

BR 21504 ; DB 80502

Biography of Emma Gatewood (1887-1973), who left her family in Ohio in May 1955, saying only that she was going for a walk. Four months later she completed a solo hike of the Appalachian Trail, from south to north--the first woman to do so. Details her trip and subsequent celebrity.

Halfway to the Sky, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

BR 16976 ; DB 64936

Twelve-year-old Dani runs away from her mother after the death of her brother Springer and her parents' divorce. Dani plans to hike the entire Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine on her own, but is unexpectedly joined by her mother. For grades 5-8.

Hiking Through: One Man's Journey to Peace and Freedom on the Appalachian Trail, by Paul Stutzman

DB 107237

Memoir of a man who lost his wife to breast cancer, and turned his grief into a determination to hike the entirety of the Appalachian Trail. Stutzman left his stable career, traveled to Georgia, and took his first steps on the Appalachian Trail. What he learned during the next four and a half months changed his life.

Nature Girl, by Jane Kelley

DB 71544

Eleven-year-old New Yorker Megan resents having to spend the summer in Vermont with her family to experience art and nature. Megan fights with her teenage sister and decides to hike the Appalachian Trail to nearby Massachusetts and visit her best friend--with only her dog for company. For grades 5-8.

Navigating Early, by Clare Vanderpool

BR 20126 ; DBC 05135

After the death of his mother, thirteen-year-old Jack Baker is sent to a boy's boarding school in Maine, where he develops an odd friendship with a student named Early. Together, they go on an adventure to find the Appalachian great black bear. For grades 6-9 and older readers.

Old Lady on the Trail: Triple Crown at 76, by Mary E. Davison

DB 104577

Woman recounts her years hiking and completing the Triple Crown--hiking the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, and Continental Divide Trail--at the age of seventy-six. Discusses challenges she has faced, the benefits of trail hiking on her health, and specific experiences while on the trails.

On the Beaten Path: An Appalachian Pilgrimage, by Robert Alden Rubin

DBC 12377

Every year, a couple thousand would-be "thruhikers" set out to walk the entire 2,000-mile length Georgia- to Maine Appalachian Trail. About one of every 10 actually makes it. Robert Rubin's chances did not look good. Thirty-eight years old, dispirited, and burned out, he dreamed of leaving mortgage, wife, and cul-de-sac life behind for a journey that would take half a year-- or might never end. What awaited Rubin was not the solo trek he'd imagined, but a strange vagrant culture of pilgrims and dropouts with its own rules and rituals.

Riverbend Gap: Riverbend Romance, Book 1, by Denise Hunter

DB 109899

When Katelyn Loveland's car veered off a winding Appalachian Mountain road, she thought she was done for. That is until Cooper Robinson, local sheriff's deputy, came to her rescue. And though Katie narrowly escaped her brush with death, she still fell. Hard. She wasn't the only one. But soon Cooper learns that the woman he's more attracted to than any he's ever met is his brother's new girlfriend--and therefore unquestionably off limits. Yet, despite their best efforts, Cooper and Katie can't seem to avoid running into each other. Or ignore the undeniable chemistry between them. As they grow closer, Katie shares secrets from her past and the real reason she moved to their small North Carolina town. She also wins over Cooper's welcoming and bighearted family. But they

don't know that her feelings for Cooper keep growing--all while she's dating his brother. Soon the stakes of their emotional connection become higher than either could have imagined. Katie stands to lose the first family she's ever had, and a scandal could doom Cooper's campaign for sheriff. Suddenly they find themselves on the edge of another precipice--and they're forced to make a decision that could change their lives forever.

She Walks These Hills: Ballad, Book 3, by Sharyn McCrumb

DB 40372

In the Tennessee hills, elderly escaped convict Harm Sorley is trying to find his wife and baby, since Korsakoff's syndrome has erased the last forty years from his memory. Like his uncle before him, Harm is becoming a folk hero, but newly appointed deputy Martha Ayers feels duty bound to track him. Meanwhile, retracing the long-ago route a pioneer girl took to escape from Indians, a graduate student encounters her ghost.

The Appalachian Trail Reader, by David Emblidge

DB 45920

A collection of travel diaries and registers, historical accounts, and other writings that portray the 2,140-mile recreational footpath running from Georgia to Maine. Traces the wilderness trail northward, depicting its history, geology, scenery, wildlife, and lore.

The Ballad of Frankie Silver: Ballad, Book 5, by Sharyn McCrumb

DB 47980

Tennessee Sheriff Spencer Arrowood finds parallels between a nineteenth-century murder and one he investigated twenty years ago. In 1833 Frankie Silver was the first woman hanged in North Carolina. Another murderer is bound for the electric chair for a crime committed on the Appalachian trail. Both cases leave unanswered questions.

The Burning Girls: Ellie Reeves, Book 3, by Rita B. Herron

DB 107558

Detective Ellie Reeves has been called to a river where a body has been found. The remains are surrounded by a circle of stones, leading Ellie to wonder if something more

sinister is at play. When another body is found in a circle of stones, Ellie knows she is chasing a serial killer.

The End of the Trail: Hardy Boys, Book 162, by Franklin W. Dixon

BR 13974

The Hardy boys and their friends stop hiking the Appalachian Trail to find help for daredevil Biff's injury. But the old mining town of Morgan's Quarry is less a refuge than an isolated place full of dangerous secrets. For grades 4-7.

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon, by Stephen King

DB 48270

While her brother and mother argue up ahead on the Maine hiking trail, nine-year-old Trisha stops to relieve herself and becomes lost for days in the wilderness. Her imaginary conversations with Red Sox relief pitcher Tom Gordon help her cope with the evil thing that's following her.

The Precipice: Mike Bowditch, Book 6, by Paul Doiron

BR 20958

Maine game warden Mike Bowditch's romantic weekend with his girlfriend, wildlife biologist Stacey Stevens, is interrupted by a call to help locate two missing hikers on the Appalachian Trail. The consensus is that the women fell prey to coyotes, but Stacey suspects murder.

The Trail, by Meika Hashimoto

DBC 16297

Toby and his friend Lucas made a list of things to do the summer before they entered middle school, but now Lucas is gone, and Toby sets out to fulfill the promise he made to his friend, to finish the list by hiking the Appalachian Trail from Velvet Rocks to Mt. Katahdin, an undertaking that he is poorly prepared for--and which will become not only a struggle for survival, but a rescue mission for the starving and abused dog who he finds along the way. For grades 4-7.

The Unseen Trail: The Story of a Blind Hiker's Journey on the Appalachian Trail,
by Michael O. Hanson

DBC 02612

Minneapolis-based attorney Mike Hanson set out along the Appalachian Trail in the spring of 2010. Using only a GPS device and trekking poles, the visually impaired Hanson plotted and completed the majority of the Appalachian Trail without outside assistance, making an important point about the power of technology and the independence of those without sight.