

# Storybook Careers: Learning about jobs through fiction, non-fiction and memoir

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**Storybook Careers** Learning about jobs through fiction, non-fiction, and memoir

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Terry Pile and Alison Beale

**Storybook Careers: Learning about jobs through fiction, non-fiction, and memoir Based on John Holland's™ Theory of Career Choice**

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**About this Book** Are you still wondering what you want to be when you grow up? Are you considering a new career? Are you someone who just loves to read about all types of people, places, and things? Then this book is for you. *Storybook Careers* is a summary of books in which a major character has a distinct career woven into the story. It is organized according to John Holland's theory of career

interests based on six personality types: Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising and Conventional. In many cases, the character's career is secondary to the story line, however, these books were selected based on how well they portray a career as well as for their entertainment value. The books summarized here will not provide you with

a comprehensive, day-in-the-life account of most of the careers portrayed. They were chosen to pique your curiosity in a variety of careers based on your interests and personality type. A modified version of John Holland's career assessment

is available in Appendix A. Appendix B offers you a list of

resources for additional career exploration. [Table of Contents](#) [Introduction: Learning through story 7](#)

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Introduction Learning through story

As a student, I was not fond of history. The history books were dry and lifeless. Historical events were taken out of context. Myriad dates had to be memorized and spewed back on weekly exams, only to be forgotten the day after. Looking back, it is clear it wasn't history that bored me; it was the pedantic text book format in which it was presented.

Historical fiction on the other hand, is something I can embrace. What I know about the civil war I learned from *Gone with the Wind*, *Red Badge of Courage*, *My Name is Mary Sutter*, *The Secrets of Mary Bowser*, and *Cold Mountain*. These are wonderful books that paint a big picture of the tension prior

to the war, the division of families, the prevalence of disease that killed so many, and the chaos created by the carpetbaggers post-war. *One Thousand Chestnut Trees* helped me to understand the tumultuous history of Korea, *Wild Swans* the evolution of China's cultural revolution, and *Between Shades of Gray* about the Russian takeover of Lithuania and the work camps in Siberia.

Fiction, creative non-fiction,\* and memoir can also be an engrossing and insightful ways to learn about occupations. *L-1*, by Scott Turow, is an excellent memoir about the first year of a Harvard law student. In *Tell Me Where It Hurts*, Dr. Nick Trout condenses several years of his experience as a veterinary surgeon into one actionpacked day. Po Bronson takes a cynical look at the world of bond traders in his fictional work, *Bombardiers*. *Blind Submissions*, by Debra Ginsberg, humorously conveys the struggles of a young woman trying to make her way in the New York publishing world.

As a career counselor and avid bibliophile, I have spent several decades compiling a list of fiction, creative non-fiction, and memoir which gives the reader a bird's eye view of hundreds of vocations which can be found in literature. Some of these depictions are spot on, others tongue-in-cheek, and still others are exaggerated and fantastical. I tried to pick books that best depict occupations within the context of the storyline...even though the profession may not be germane to the overall message of the story. **Using Holland Codes to guide your reading**

When thinking about how I wanted to present my collection of storybook careers, I decided to categorize them using John Holland's six vocational themes. John Holland was a doctor of counseling psychology who became interested in matching personality types with career choices in the 1950's. He created a vocational classification system known as Occupations Finder which divides work attributes into six categories. Career counselors have been using his classifications with their clients since the 1970's with a high degree of success. They are described below. **(R) Realistic** **â€œDoersâ€** : People who prefer to work with things such as tools and objects. They are practical, thrifty, and often have mechanical or athletic ability. They enjoy physical labor, interacting with animals and working outdoors. Typical careers are in construction, agriculture, aviation, forestry, and law enforcement. **(I) Investigative** **â€œThinkersâ€** : People with abilities in math and science who like working puzzles, solving complex problems, and dealing with ideas. They are analytical, introspective, and curious. Typical careers are in computer science, engineering, medicine, and research and development. **(A) Artistic** **â€œCreatorsâ€** : People with artistic ability and imagination. They are expressive, open-minded, and enjoy creating original works of art. Many work in the fine arts, performing arts, photography, film, and fashion industries. **(S) Social** **â€œHelpersâ€** : People interested in social relationships and helping others. They enjoy interacting with individuals and in teams and want to improve society. Teachers, nurses, psychologists, and lawyers fit into this category. **(E) Enterprising** **â€œPersuadersâ€** : People who are adventurous, extroverted, and who like being in charge and influencing others. They tend to be entrepreneurial and work in business and program management positions, real estate, marketing, and fundraising. **(C) Conventional** **â€œOrganizersâ€** : People who are conscientious, logical, and detail-oriented. They are systems-oriented and like structured environments and quantifiable tasks. You will find them in accounting, bookkeeping, human resources, and database management.

For the purpose of this book, I loosely organized occupations into Holland's six categories. However, just as most people have eclectic interests, many professions can't be categorized into just one group, and characteristics often overlap. For examples, lawyers often share interests with the social, enterprising and conventional categories. Although teachers are frequently classified as social because they like working with people, a math teacher could be considered conventional and a drama teacher artistic. Think about the three categories you most resemble. Those will be the chapters you will want to read first.

If you are not sure how to categorize your interests, a popular Personality Mosaic is included in Appendix A of this book. It is based on John Holland's occupational themes. There are many variations online to help you identify your top three career interest categories. In addition to the Personality Mosaic, I recommend using the career exploration tool called My Next Move ([www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org)). Click on "Tell us what you like to do" which is a 60-question survey that describes what people do on their jobs and asks you to rate your level of interest. This web-based interactive tool can help you identify your interests and match related occupations. It is part of the Occupational Information Network (O\*Net – [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)) developed under the sponsorship of the US Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration. O\*Net is the primary source of occupational information in the United States and contains comprehensive information on hundreds of occupations recognized by the US Department of Labor. **Why I wrote this book**

This book was written mainly as a way for me to share my love of books with others. I have personally read about 80 percent of the books listed. The remainder have been meticulously reviewed by my coauthor/editor, Alison Beale, and myself. Since we are constantly updating our reviews, visit [www.BiblioPilePress.com](http://www.BiblioPilePress.com) for our latest additions. We welcome your suggestions.

As a consummate teacher and career counselor, I also want this resource to be instructional for those who are exploring careers as a student or potential career changer. The collection of book reviews is designed to pique your interest and make you want to learn more about a career. It should not be your only decision-making tool for landing on a career choice. The best way to learn about careers is to talk to people who are in them. Job shadowing and volunteering are also great ways to experience careers before you jump in with both feet. You can find additional career exploration resources in Appendix B at the back of this book. In the meantime, take some time to enjoy reading about the careers of others, fiction, non-fiction, and memoir. Happy reading.

*\*Lee Gutkind, author of You Can't Make This Stuff Up, describes creative non-fiction as a technique writers use to present "factually accurate prose about real people and events in a compelling, vivid, dramatic manner. The goal is to make nonfiction stories read like fiction so that your readers are as enthralled by facts as they are by fantasy."* Chapter I Storybook Careers for Realistic Types (Doers)

If you like active, outdoor or hands-on work, you probably have a tendency to prefer jobs categorized as realistic. Realistic types value structure, physical activity, and tradition. Occupations fall into the following areas:

- Outdoor Environment, Plants and Animals (Farmer, Geologist, Zoologist, Landscaper, Park Ranger, Horticulturalist, Rancher, Forest Ranger, Surveyor)
- Construction and Engineering (Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Electrician, Carpenter, Construction Manager)
- Protective Services (Police Officer, Security Guard, Firefighter, Fish and Game Warden, Secret Service Agent, Military Personnel) Animal Trainer (R)

*The \$80 Champion: Snowman, the horse that inspired a nation*, Elizabeth Letts – Non-fiction

- Harry de Leyer, a Dutch immigrant, owns a small farm on Long Island and teaches riding at a fancy girls' school. When he saves a raggedy plow horse named Snowman from the slaughter house for a mere \$80, he is doing it out of kindness. He eventually sells Snowman to a neighbor but the loyal horse keeps jumping fences and returning to the man that saved him. Harry detects spunk in this animal that he is determined to nurture. Harry's training methods are unconventional

but effective. Against all odds, Snowball becomes a trophy winning show jumper. Baseball Player (RE)

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Are you still wondering what you want to be when you grow up? Are you considering a new career? Do you love to read about all types of people, places, and things? Then this book is for you.

Storybook Careers is a collection of book reviews meant to help you learn about careers as well as provide you with reading recommendations. It includes fiction, creative non-fiction and memoir, and represents over 100 different occupations. Each book was selected because a major character has a distinct career woven into the plotline. It is organized according to John Holland's theory of career interests based on six personality types: Doer, Thinker, Creator, Helper, Persuader, and Organizer.

In many cases, the character's occupation is secondary to the story line, however, these books were selected based not only on how well they portray a career but also for their entertainment value. We hope they will pique your curiosity about careers based on your interests and personality type, or simply provide you with suggestions for your reading pleasure.

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The New Yorker Recommends: Book Reviews - Here's the Telegraph's definitive guide to the finest podcasts for storytelling, of 2009, after being sacked as a radio host and with his career on the skids, and profane, sometimes all at once "and are definitely not for the easily offended. Stories address hunting for jobs on Craigslist (#620), dealing with 50 Best Nonfiction Books for Kids Who Love Learning - This is a collection of book reviews meant to help you learn about careers as Tags: nonfiction fiction memoir jobs careers career change book Literary Magazines For New Writers 2019 - For every suspense novel that shocks and awes readers, there are of the late eighties and early nineties who partied like it was their jobs. A gripping, fast-paced story with an asset that few true crime books have: no body count. Part memoir, part investigation into the murder of a six year old boy in the Book Writing Software (2020): Top 10 Pieces of Software for - Penguin How to Write a Book in 2019 (A Step-by-Step Guide for New - Browse thousands of books for all ages featuring your favorite characters from Disney, Star Wars, Marvel, Pixar, and more! Best history books 2019 - I benefited from their services myself early on in my writing career, and strongly believe For TLC Sue reads children's fiction and non-fiction, life writing, and memoir... Her work includes hands-on learning books for early readers, picture books, and. covering poetry, story books and fiction and non-fiction picture books. How to Publish a Book and Sell Your First 1,000 Copies - All non-fiction books are filed according to the Dewey Decimal classification system. Jul 15, 2014 Â· We learn about

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