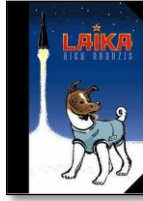


1950s Literature Selections  
Nifty Fifties 2016



*Laika* by Nick Abadzis

This is the journey of Laika, the abandoned puppy destined to become Earth's first space traveler. With the blending of fact and fiction, this story intertwines three compelling lives. Along with Laika, there is Korolev, a driven engineer at the top of the Soviet space program and Yelena, the lab technician responsible for Laika's health and life. (Graphic novel)



*Penny From Heaven* by Jennifer Holmes

As she turns twelve during the summer of 1953, Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also learning a secret about her father's death. (Novel)



*Catch a Tiger by the Toe* by Ellen Levine

In the Bronx, New York, during the McCarthy era, twelve-year-old Jamie keeps a terrible secret about her family, but when the truth is exposed, her parents lose their jobs and she is fired from the school newspaper. (Novel)



*On Beale Street* by Ronald Kidd

In Memphis, in the 1950's, when fifteen-year-old Johnny is introduced to the blues, he ventures to the infamous Beale Street and finds the friendship with an up-and-coming young musician Elvis Presley. (Novel)



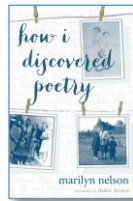
*Paperboy* by Vince Vawter

When an eleven-year-old boy takes over a friend's newspaper route in July, 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month.



*New Boy* by Julian Houston

At a time when civil rights protests were making history and Jackie Robinson and Joe Louis has broken the color barrier in sports, a young black man from Virginia has the opportunity to an education and future in an exclusive boarding school in Connecticut. Although he is the only person of color at the school, he is witness to the persecution of another student. (Novel)



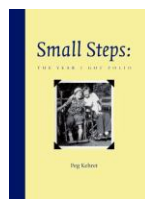
*How I Discovered Poetry* by Marilyn Nelson

Looking back on her childhood in the 1950s, Marilyn Nelson tells the story of her development as an artist and young woman through fifty poems giving an intimate portrait of her growing self-awareness and artistic inspiration along with a larger view of the world around her: racial tensions, the Cold War era, and the first stirrings of the feminist movement. (Memoir/poetry)



*Bombs Over Bikini: the world's first nuclear disaster*  
by Connie Goldsmith

In 1946, as part of the Cold War arms race, the US military launched a program to test nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands of the Pacific Ocean. From 1946 until 1958, the military detonated sixty-seven nuclear bombs over the region's Bikini and Enewetak Atolls. The twelfth bomb, called Bravo, became the world's first nuclear disaster. It sent a toxic cloud of radiation over Rongelap Atoll and other nearby inhabited islands. (Informational text)



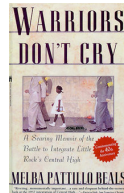
*Small Steps: the Year I Got Polio* by Peg Kehret

The author describes her battle against polio when she was thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects. (Informational text/biography)



*Jackie Robinson: I Never Had it Made* by Jackie Robinson

*The Autobiography of a Boy of Summer Who Became a Man for All Seasons* is more than a baseball story, *I Never Had It Made* also reveals the highs and lows of Robinson's life after baseball. He recounts his political aspirations and civil rights activism; his friendships with Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, William Buckley, Jr., and Nelson Rockefeller; and his troubled relationship with his son, Jackie, Jr. Originally published the year Robinson died, *I Never Had It Made* endures as an inspiring story of a man whose heroism extended well beyond the playing field. (Informational text/autobiography)



*Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Pattillo Beals

Using news accounts and the diary she kept as a teenager, Beals relives the harrowing year when she was selected as one of the first nine students to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. (Informational/memoir)