



Uýra: The Rising Forest

DELVE DEEPER READING LIST



This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Constance Zack Community of the School Library Association of Rhode Island, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Uyra: The Rising Forest*.

While traveling through the Amazon, Uýra shares ancestral knowledge with Indigenous youth to promote the significance of identity and place, threatened by Brazil's oppressive political regime. Through dance, poetry, and stunning characterization, Uýra boldly confronts historical racism, transphobia, and environmental destruction, while emphasizing the interdependence of humans and the environment.

Contributors

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ADULT NON-FICTION

Alonzo, Allen. *Andean Adventures: An Unexpected Search for Meaning, Purpose and Discovery across Three Continents*. Enoble and Ennoble, 2021.

"Doctor Alonzo" found himself surrounded by indigenous peasant leaders and communities in raucous tribal celebrations, social movements for change, wonders of nature and marvels of human kindness and romance while hitchhiking to the very tip of South America and its glaciers and penguins. Along the way, there were unexpected dangers - near-death illness in the jungle, getting shot at in a police-military crossfire, an arrest and detention behind bars by an anti-American colonel looking to jail some gringos, tear gas and police truncheons from Nazi-influenced fascists in Chile, terrorist car bombs in Peru and an expulsion order by a drugs & thugs U.S. Ambassador in Bolivia when he got in the way of illicit spying. "Doctor Alonzo" candidly shares his story of discovery and adventure among the peoples of the Andes. With simple honesty, he tells the tale of his own enlightenment to inspire others to be of service and for the next generation to dedicate themselves to the principles of working to build a better tomorrow.

Bourne, Richard. *Brazil After Bolsonaro: The Comeback of Lula da Silva*. Routledge, 2023.

Providing fair and balanced perspectives on Lula, the authors examine the legacy of Lula's previous presidency; what happened in the interim in the eras of Rousseff, Temer, and Bolsonaro; and what are the challenges facing a new Lula administration.

Campbell, David G. *A Land of Ghosts: The Braided Lives of People and the Forest in Far Western Amazonia*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2005.

David G. Campbell knows the people of the Amazon: the recently arrived colonists with their failing farms; the mixed-blood Caboclos, masters of hunting, fishing, and survival; and the refugee Native Americans. Campbell introduces us to two remarkable women, Dona Cabocla, a widow who raised six children on that lonely frontier, and Dona Ausira, A Nokini Native American who is the last speaker of her tribe's age-old language. These people live in a land whose original inhabitants were wiped out by centuries of disease, slavery, and genocide, taking their traditions and languages with the—a land of ghosts.

Gage, Tyler. *Fully Alive: Using the Lessons of the Amazon to Live Your Mission in Business and in Life*. Atria Books, 2017.

Fully Alive tells the story of an astoundingly successful young entrepreneur's immersion in Amazonian indigenous spirituality and how he integrated the lessons he learned to build a successful, socially responsible company, live a purposeful life, and make a difference in the world. In Fully Alive, Tyler Gage shares his spiritual adventures and the business savvy that helped him create RUNA, a tea and energy drink company that collaborates with the indigenous people of Ecuador to harvest the "master plant" guayusa, revealing a centuries-old guiding philosophy for building a sacred way of living that he discovered through Amazonian shamanism. Following these teachings, what began as a humble start-up has now grown into a thriving, multi-million dollar company, selling products in more than 10,000 stores across the United States and Canada. RUNA has created a sustainable source of income for the 3,000 farming families in Ecuador who grow guayus organically, while also establishing a nonprofit organization dedicated to positively impacting the issues that affect these indigenous communities. Packed with practical and inspiring lessons, this

book offers a comprehensive examination of how we too might become "fully alive, both in business and as individuals."

Ghinsberg, Yossi. *Lost in the Jungle: a Harrowing True Story of Adventure and Survival*. Skyhorse, 2009.

Four travelers meet in Bolivia and set off into the heart of the Amazon rainforest, but what begins as a dream adventure quickly deteriorates into a dangerous nightmare, and after weeks of wandering in the dense undergrowth, the four backpackers split up into two groups. But when a terrible rafting accident separates him from his partner, Yossi is forced to survive for weeks alone against one of the wildest backdrops on the planet. Stranded without a knife, map, or survival training, he must improvise shelter and forage for wild fruit to survive. As his feet begin to rot during raging storms, as he loses all sense of direction, and as he begins to lose all hope, he wonders whether he will make it out of the jungle alive.

Greenwald, Glenn. *Securing Democracy: My Fight for Press Freedom and Justice in Bolsonaro's Brazil*. Haymarket, 2021.

Reporting by Greenwald and his team of Brazilian journalists brought to light stunning information about grave corruption, deceit, and wrongdoing by the most powerful political actors in Brazil, his home since 2005. These stories, based on a massive trove of previously undisclosed telephone calls, audio, and text shared by an anonymous source, came to light only months after the January 2019 inauguration of Brazil's far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro, an ally of President Trump. The revelations "had an explosive impact on Brazilian politics" (The Guardian) and prompted serious rancor, including direct attacks by President Bolsonaro himself, and ultimately an attempt by the government to criminally prosecute Greenwald for his reporting. "A wave of death threats--in a country where political violence is commonplace--have poured in, preventing me from ever leaving my house for any reason without armed guards and an armored vehicle," Greenwald writes. The story, he concludes, "highlights the power of transparency and the reason why a free press remains the essential linchpin for securing democracy."

Hemming, John. *Tree of Rivers: the Story of the Amazon*. Thames and Hudson, 2009.

Hemming discusses the current threat to Amazonia as forests are destroyed to feed the world's appetite for timber, beef, and soybeans, and he vividly describes the passionate struggles taking place in order to utilize, protect, and understand the Amazon.

Lapper, Richard. *Beef, Bible and Bullets: Brazil in the Age of Bolsonaro*. Manchester University Press, 2021.

Bolsonaro promised simple solutions to Brazil's rising violent crime, falling living standards and widespread corruption, but what has emerged is Latin America's most right-wing president since the military dictatorships of the 1970s. Famous for his racist, homophobic and sexist beliefs and his disregard for human rights, the so-called 'Trump of the Tropics' has established a reputation based on his polemical, sensationalist statements. Written by a journalist with decades of experience in the field, Beef, Bible and bullets is a compelling account of the origins of Brazil's unique brand of right-wing populism. Lapper offers the first major assessment of the Bolsonaro government and the growing tensions between extremist and moderate conservatives.

Plotkin, Mark. J. *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicine in the Rain Forest*. Viking, 1993.

For thousands of years, healers have used plants to cure illness. Aspirin, the world's most widely used drug, is based on compounds originally extracted from the bark of a willow tree, and more than a quarter of medicines found on pharmacy shelves contain plant compounds. Now Western medicine, faced with health crises such as AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, and cancer, has begun to

look to the healing plants used by indigenous peoples to develop powerful new medicines. Nowhere is the search more promising than in the Amazon, the world's largest tropical forest, home to a quarter of all botanical species on this planet—as well as hundreds of Indian tribes whose medicinal plants have never been studied by Western scientists. Ethnobotanist Mark J. Plotkin recounts his travels and studies with some of the most powerful Amazonian shamans, who taught him the plant lore their tribes have spent thousands of years gleaning from the rain forest.

Rosolie, Paul. *Mother of God: an Extraordinary Journey into the Uncharted Tributaries of the Western Amazon*. HarperCollins, 2014.

Rosolie relives his odyssey exploring the heart of the most biodiversity-rich place on the planet, the Madre de Dios (Mother of God) region of Peru, where the Amazon River begins its massive flow from the Andean mountain cloud forests into the lowland Amazon rainforest.

ADULT FICTION

Ferencik, Erica. *Into the Jungle*. Gallery, 2020.

A young woman leaves behind everything she knows to take on the Bolivian jungle, but her excursion abroad quickly turns into a fight for her life. Lily Bushwold thought she'd found the antidote to endless foster care and group homes: a teaching job in Bolivia. As soon as she could steal enough cash for the plane, she was on it. When the gig falls through, world-weary Lily decides to stay in Bolivia when an intense passion finds her in the form she least expected: Omar, a savvy, handsome local man who'd abandoned his life as a hunter in Ayachero—a remote jungle village—to try his hand at city life. When Omar learns that a jaguar has killed his four-year-old nephew in Ayachero, he gives Lily a choice: Stay alone in the unforgiving city, or travel to the last in a string of ever-more-isolated river towns in the jungles of Bolivia. Thirty-foot anaconda? Puppy-sized spiders? Vengeful shamans with unspeakable powers? Lovestruck Lily is oblivious. She follows Omar to this ruthless new world of lawless poachers, bullheaded missionaries, and desperate indigenous tribes driven to the brink of extinction. To survive, Lily must navigate the jungle—its wonders as well as its terrors—using only her wits and resilience.

Patchett, Ann. *State of Wonder*. Harper, 2011.

A researcher at a pharmaceutical company, Marina Singh journeys into the heart of the Amazonian delta to check on a field team that has been silent for two years—a dangerous assignment that forces Marina to confront the ghosts of her past.

Rollins, James. *Amazonia*. William Morrow, 2002.

The Rand scientific expedition entered the lush wilderness of the Amazon and never returned. Years later, one of its members has stumbled out of the world's most inhospitable rainforest—a former Special Forces soldier, scarred, mutilated, terrified, and mere hours from death, who went in with one arm missing . . . and came out with both intact. Unable to comprehend this inexplicable event, the government sends Nathan Rand into this impenetrable secret world of undreamed-of perils, to follow the trail of his vanished father . . . toward mysteries that must be solved at any cost. But the nightmare that is awaiting Nate and his team of scientists and seasoned U.S. Rangers dwarfs any danger they anticipated . . . an ancient, unspoken terror—a power beyond human imagining—that can forever alter the world.

YOUNG ADULT NONFICTION

Lasky, Kathryn. *The Most Beautiful Roof in the World: Exploring the Rain Forest Canopy*. Gulliver Green, 1997.

Dr. Lowman is a scientist who, with the help of slings, suspended walkways, and mountain-climbing equipment, has managed to ascend into one of our planet's least accessible and most fascinating ecosystems.

Ritchie, Mark Andrew. *Spirit of the Rainforest: A Yanoman Shaman's Story*. Island Lake Press, 2021.

"We Yanomamo only speak our stories. We never mark our words on paper like you nabas. These words from my mouth--if you are seeing them on paper, you must be a maba. Because you are a naba, there are many things I must explain so you can understand the story of my people -- Jungleman" So begins the riveting first person account of Jungleman, a shaman for the Yanomamo Indians. A fascinating and misunderstood people group, now for the first time, a powerful Yanomamo shaman speaks for his people. Jungleman provides shocking, never-before-answered accounts of life-or-death battles among his people--and perhaps even more disturbing among the spirits who fight for their souls. Brutally riveting, the story of Jungleman is an extraordinary and powerful document. Ritchie teams up with the late Shoefoot Cajicua responding to the great majority of academics who do not agree with his view of his own people.

Moss, Marie Joanna. *Born and Raised in the Amazon*. Nielsen, 2011.

Born and Raised in the Amazon is an insight into the lives of the indigenous tribes of Brazil. Norberto was born and raised in the Brazilian Amazon Jungle and for the first 25 years of his life, he was separated from civilization, living within a tribe.

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Allende, Isabel. *City of the Beasts*. Harper Perennial, 2003.

Fifteen year old Alexander Cold goes on an Amazonian adventure with his fearless grandmother Kate. She's a magazine reporter gathering research in a remote area of the Amazon rainforest. The expedition group also includes a local guide, his daughter Nadia, an anthropologist, a doctor, and a local entrepreneur. They are searching for a legendary creature known as the Beast, when the teens are kidnapped by the mystical "People of the Mist." ***City of the Beasts*** is the first book in a trilogy by Isabel Allende.

Ibbotson, Eva. *Journey to the River Sea*. Macmillan, 2021.

It is 1910 and Maia, tragically orphaned at thirteen, has been sent from England to start a new life with distant relatives in Manaus, hundreds of miles up the Amazon. She is accompanied by an eccentric and mysterious governess who has secret reasons of her own for making the journey. Both soon discover an exotic world bursting with new experiences.

Plotkin, Mark. *The Shaman's Apprentice: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest*. Clarion, 2001.

For thousands of years, in the jungles of the Amazon, shamans have passed their wisdom of the medicinal values of rain forest plants from one generation to the next. The Shaman's Apprentice tells the story of a Tirio Indian boy who dreams of one day being the tribal shaman, and how he and his people learn the importance of their own knowledge about the healing properties of the rainforest.

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS AND CHILDREN

Abbott, Simon. *100 Questions about the Amazon Rainforest*. Peter Pauper Press, 2020.

Take a trip to the wild and wondrous Amazon rainforest, and discover the plants, animals, and people that call this amazing place home! Discover the Amazon's resources, why it is called "the lungs of the Earth," and how essential it is to our everyday lives. Question-and-answer format breaks down information into manageable chunks. Informal, kid-friendly language is breezy and fun. Jokes and riddles sprinkled throughout add to the appeal.

Brett, Jan. *The Umbrella*. G.P. Putnam, 2004.

A walk through the Costa Rican cloud forest provides a wonderfully lush setting for Jan Brett's beloved animal illustrations. When Carlos drops his umbrella to climb a tree for a better view of the animals, they all cram into the banana-leaf umbrella as it floats by—from the little tree frog to the baby tapir to the big jaguar and more. It gets so crowded in the umbrella that there isn't even enough room for a little hummingbird! So over the umbrella tumbles, everyone falls out, and poor Carlos comes back wondering why he didn't see any animals all day.

Cheney, Lynne. *The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon RainForest*. Clarion, 1990

The author journeyed deep into the rainforests of Brazil to write and illustrate this picture book about a man who exhausts himself trying to chop down a giant kapok tree. While he sleeps, the forest's residents, including a child from the Yanomamo tribe, whisper in his ear about the importance of trees and how "all living things depend on one another" and it works.

Hapka, Cathy. *One Big Blue Family*. Harper 2014.

A blue macaw sighting in the Amazon sends Blu and Jewel on a trip to find more of their kind. An I Can Read book.

Navarro, Barbara. *Amazon Rainforest Magic: The Adventures of Nawome, a Yanomani Boy*. Barbara Crane Navarro, 2011.

The magic of the Amazon rainforest enchanted artist Barbara Crane Navarro as she spent the winter months with the Yanomami communities in Venezuela and Brazil over a period of twelve years. These travels inspired her to write her children's books. The vividly illustrated stories in this series evoke daily life in the rainforest and the magical quality of the Yanomami's relation to the plants and animals around them. The first book, "*Amazon Rainforest Magic: The Adventures of Namowë, a Yanomami Boy*", recounts the journey of Namowë, a thirteen year old Yanomami boy living in the rainforest, as he seeks a cure for his baby sister.

Navarro, Barbara. *Amazon Rainforest Magic: The Adventures of Meromi, a Yanomani Girl*. Barbara Crane Navarro, 2015.

This second volume recounts the voyage of Meromi, a 9 year old Yanomami girl who is swept into an unexpected adventure in the rivers and jungles of the Amazon. With the help of improvised allies, she seeks a way to discourage intruders and make them leave the forest. Aspects of traditional

Yanomami life in the Rainforest are woven into the fanciful story. The author's illustrations transform readers into fellow travelers on Meromi's magical quest.

Worth, Bonnie. *If I Ran the Rainforest: All About the Tropical RainForest*. Random House, 2003.

The Cat in the Hat takes Sally and Dick for an "umbrella-vator" ride through the understory, canopy, and emergent layers of a tropical rainforest, encountering a host of plants, animals, and native peoples along the way.