there are some surprising and useful additions. Along with characters in the stories, real people in Chopin's life are included. You'll find an entry about Guy de Maupassant right before an entry on the character Miss Mayblunt. There is a list of all of Chopin's works right between “Victor Chopin” and “Choppin,” as well as entries for films and dissertations about Chopin. Some of these sections might have benefited from being in an appendix so that readers could find them more easily.

One of the more helpful elements of this book is the information contained in the parenthesis listed after each term. The parenthesis informs the reader which story contains a character listed, and where the individual stories were first published, information that could help a reader locate the story later. Another valuable element is the summary of relevant criticism after each plot synopsis along with source information pointing to the bibliography. Important Chopin scholars like Emily Toth, Per Seyersted, and Nancy Walker are included.

Details included in entries are useful in understanding plots and characters, though the decisions of what to include and what not to include sometimes seems whimsical. For instance, in the entry for The Awakening, Gale includes details about the piano piece two little girls are playing in chapter 2, but he doesn't mention that Madame LeBrun now has to rent out cottages to maintain her former lifestyle. Still it is hard to summarize a hundred-page novel in a couple of pages, and the entries will help readers clarify important details about the works.

The reasonable price and the useful information in this book will make it a good addition to many libraries. It is recommended for large public libraries and most universities and colleges, especially those with a strong American literature collection.—Arianne A. Hartsell-Gundy, Humanities Librarian, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio


The Civil Rights movement was a turning point in American history and continues to play a part in society, leading to the transformation of the American presidency and most recently, a Supreme Court decision on the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This book, one of sixteen titles in ABC-Clio's Perspectives in American Social History series, provides an excellent resource for students studying this period. The Civil Rights Movement is not an encyclopedia, but instead a collection of eight essays. Together these essays serve to link the varied facets of the civil rights movement: the “long civil rights movement” (xiii) which focuses on the period leading up to the era of the King years, which is the second, or “traditional recounting” of the movement and the “black power perspective.” The contributors are all scholars, with established publishing records. The essays are of substantial length, provide a depth not found in other works, and make for fascinating, inspiring, and heart-rending reading.

In addition to the essays, there is a lengthy and detailed chronology beginning with January 1954 and the threatened boycott of the Memphis Street Railway Company. Small, but not insignificant, items are listed, such as when ministers in Atlanta were arrested for sitting in the white section of a public bus in 1957, as well as more publicized events as Hank Aaron breaking Babe Ruth’s homerun record in 1974. A nearly twenty-page reference section serves as a glossary, providing information on events, people, organizations, and court cases that shaped the movement. In addition, there is an offering of a few relevant primary documents. The selection is very small, and for the two court cases only an excerpt is provided, although there is a summary of each. As would be expected, there is a complete bibliography and an index.

The Civil Rights Movement: People and Perspectives compares favorably with and complements earlier works, such as Sanford Wexler’s The Civil Rights Movement: An Eyewitness History (Facts on File, 1993) and Patricia and Fredrick McKissack’s The Civil Rights Movement in America: From 1865 to the Present (Children’s Press, 1991). Wexler’s book makes great use of personal accounts, as the subtitle suggests, and the McKissacks’ work is aimed at the middle school reader. These earlier works provide the facts, photos, and accounts of events in the civil rights movement, while Ezra’s text provides more of a critical analysis of events. For example, the Montgomery Bus Boycott is covered by all three, but Jennifer A. Lemak’s essay “Women” in Ezra’s Civil Rights Movement speaks more to the role of women in the movement and provides a larger context for their roles. Women leaders such as Septima Clark and Daisy Bates are not included in the McKissacks’ book, and only Daisy Bates is mentioned in Wexler’s piece. Septima Clark, fired after a forty-year teaching career for refusing to resign from the NAACP, founded the Highlander Folk School in 1932 to educate black adults and make them more aware of their rights and their power within their own communities. Many high profile leaders of the civil rights movement, such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and John Lewis were associated with the school (144–45).

The Civil Rights Movement: People and Perspectives would be a meaningful addition to high school, undergraduate, and public library collections and is highly recommended.—Carla Wilson Buss, Curriculum Materials and Education Librarian, University of Georgia, Athens


Librarian and storyteller Elswit has created a unique reference work that allows the user to find recommended versions of East Asian stories by searching a subject index. Stories and sources are selected for their relevance and availability to modern, multicultural listeners. The tales and tellings referenced here reflect Elswit’s professional experience regarding what will work in today’s classroom or storytime.

Changing one’s appearance through surgical or nonsurgical procedures has become increasingly popular and merits an authoritative reference source. The Encyclopedia of Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery is part of the Facts on File Library of Health and Living series, a collection of resources covering various health and social issues. This addition to the series is designed to provide lay readers with an overview of health conditions and procedures related to cosmetic and plastic surgery, including treatment options and risks involved.

Entries are arranged alphabetically and cover health conditions, procedures, and other terms associated with cosmetic and plastic surgery. Each entry is listed by its medical term; numerous see references direct the reader from a lay term to the correct entry. Each entry for a health condition includes the sections “Symptoms and Diagnostic Path,” “Treatment Options and Outlook,” and “Risk Factors and Preventive Measures.” Each entry for a cosmetic or surgical procedure includes the sections “Procedures,” “Risks and Complications,” and “Outlook and Lifestyle Modifications.” Entries are concise and well written, but at an advanced reading level.

Drawings and illustrations would be a welcome addition to enhance the reader’s understanding.

A number of features facilitate the usability of this title. An appendix guides readers to authoritative websites for locating medical information, physician ratings, and healthcare facility ratings. A nineteen-page glossary provides definitions of unfamiliar terms and a thirteen-page index assists readers in locating topics of interest. References are not included at the end of entries; instead, a fifteen-page bibliography is found at the end of the book, with references arranged by type of resource. Providing references after entries would greatly enhance this title’s usefulness as a starting point to understanding medical conditions and treatment options.

Overall, this book competently provides overviews of health conditions and procedures related to cosmetic and plastic surgery. However, laypersons may find that the advanced reading level, alphabetical organization of entries, and arrangement of references hinders their comprehension of cosmetic and plastic surgery issues. The same material also has been published in Rinzler’s The A to Z of Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery (Checkmark Books, 2009) at a more budget-friendly price. A better choice for consumer health collections may be Bellenir’s Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery Sourcebook (Omnigraphics, 2007), which covers similar material in a question-and-answer format. Information is arranged in sections and chapters that gather related information together and provide a complete picture at a more comprehensible reading level.—Annette M. Healy, Librarian, Wayne State University, Detroit


From the initial human bond between mother and child, relationships with others are a defining aspect of people’s lives. A person’s life is intertwined with others’, creating meaningful personal interactions that create society. Encompassing behavioral and social disciplines, the Encyclopedia of Human Relationships, edited by Harry T. Reis (University of Rochester) and Susan Sprecher (Illinois State University), is a three-volume reference work dealing with all aspects of human interactions and bonds.

The encyclopedia has hundreds of varied entries on interpersonal and societal relationships. Contributors include well-regarded professors as well as experts in entry subjects. Some of these diverse topics include “Lust,” “Commercial Channels for Mate Seeking,” “Interdependency Theory,” and