



# DELIKADO

## DELVE DEEPER READING LIST



**These suggested readings provide a range of perspectives on issues raised by the POV documentary [DELIKADO](#) and allow for deeper engagement. This list of books was created by Jillian Ferrara Sturtevant of San Diego Public Library.**

Palawan is a tropical island paradise and one of Asia's tourist hotspots. But for a tiny network of environmental crusaders struggling to protect its spectacular forests and seas, it is a battlefield. *Delikado* follows three land defenders as they brave violence, death threats and murder while trying to stop politicians and businessmen from destroying the Philippines' last ecological frontier.

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# ADULT NON-FICTION

**Agoncillo, Teodora. *History of the Filipino People*. C&E Publishing, 1990.**

A comprehensive overview of Philippine History including Pre-Spanish life and culture, Spanish rule, the Filipino -American War, American rule, and the campaign for Independence, among other subjects.

**Bonner, Raymond. *Waltzing with a Dictator: The Marcoses and the Making of American Policy*. Vintage, 1988.**

Based on hundreds of interviews and more than 3,500 previously classified government documents, this a compelling account of the shocking 20-year relationship between the United States and the Marcos regime of the Philippines.

**Broad, Robin, and John Cavanaugh. *Plundering Paradise: The Struggle for the Environment in the Philippines*. University of California Press, 1993.**

This gripping portrait of environmental politics chronicles the devastating destruction of the Philippine countryside and reveals how ordinary men and women are fighting back. Traveling through a land of lush rainforests, the authors have recorded the experiences of the people whose livelihoods are disappearing along with their country's natural resources. The result is an inspiring, informative account of how peasants, fishers, and other laborers have united to halt the plunder and to improve their lives.

**CuUnjieng Aboitiz, Nicole. *Asian Place, Filipino Nation: A Global Intellectual History of the Philippine Revolution, 1887-1912*. Columbia University Press, 2020.**

The Philippine Revolution of 1896–1905, which began against Spain and continued against the United States, took place in the context of imperial subjugation and local resistance across Southeast Asia. Yet scholarship on the revolution and the turn of the twentieth century in Asia more broadly has largely approached this pivotal moment in terms of relations with the West, at the expense of understanding the East-East and Global South connections that knit together the region's experience. *Asian Place, Filipino Nation* reconnects the Philippine Revolution to the histories of Southeast and East Asia through an innovative consideration of its transnational political setting and regional intellectual foundations.

**Dunlap, Thomas. *Faith in Nature: Environmentalism as Religious Quest*. University of Washington Press, 2005.**

*Faith in Nature* traces the history of environmentalism—and its moral thrust—from its roots in the Enlightenment and Romanticism through the Progressive Era to the present. Drawing astonishing parallels between religion and environmentalism, the book examines the passion of the movement's adherents and enemies alike, its concern with the moral conduct of daily life, and its attempt to answer fundamental questions about the underlying order of the world and of humanity's place within it.

**Hernandez, Jessica. *Fresh Banana Leaves: Healing Indigenous Landscapes Through Indigenous Science*. North Atlantic Books, 2022.**

An Indigenous environmental scientist breaks down why western conservationism isn't working—and offers Indigenous models informed by case studies, personal stories, and family histories that center the voices of Latin American women and land protectors.

**Holden, William N. *President Rodrigo Duterte and the War on Drugs: Fear and Loathing in the Philippines*. Lexington Books, 2021.**

Since his election in 2016, Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte has directed a brutal anti-drug campaign rife with extrajudicial killings. Interpreting the war on drugs through the conceptual frameworks of penal populism, noble cause corruption, revanchism, and state terrorism, William N. Holden argues the war on drugs has failed to achieve its purpose, follows trends of authoritarian populism, and overlooks a more pressing social issue—the vulnerability of the Philippines to climate change.

**Shawcross, William. *Sideshow: Kissinger, Nixon, and the Destruction of Cambodia*. Cooper Square Press, 2002.**

Although there are many books and films dealing with the Vietnam War, *Sideshow* tells the truth about America's secret and illegal war with Cambodia from 1969 to 1973. William Shawcross interviewed hundreds of people of all nationalities, including cabinet ministers, military men, and civil servants, and extensively researched U.S. Government documents. This full-scale investigation—with material new to this edition—exposes how Kissinger and Nixon treated Cambodia as a sideshow. Although the president and his assistant claimed that a secret bombing campaign in Cambodia was necessary to eliminate North Vietnamese soldiers who were attacking American troops across the border, Shawcross maintains that the bombings only spread the conflict, but led to the rise of the Khmer Rouge and the subsequent massacre of a third of Cambodia's population.

**Wohlleben, Peter. *The Hidden Life of Trees:What They Feel, How They Communicate* —*Discoveries from A Secret World*. Graystone Books, 2016.**

Are trees social beings? In *The Hidden Life of Trees* forester and author Peter Wohlleben convincingly makes the case that, yes, the forest is a social network. He draws on groundbreaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families: tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warn each other of impending dangers. Wohlleben also shares his deep love of woods and forests, explaining the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration that he has observed in his woodland.

# ADULT FICTION

**Hagedorn, Jessica Tarahata. *Dream Jungle*. Viking, 2003.**

Set in a Philippines of desperate beauty and rank corruption, *Dream Jungle* feverishly traces the consequences of two seemingly unrelated events: the discovery of an alleged “lost tribe” and the arrival of a celebrity-studded American film crew filming an epic Vietnam War movie. Caught in the turmoil unleashed by these two incidents are four unforgettable characters—a wealthy, iconoclastic playboy, a woman ensnared in the sex industry, a Filipino-American writer, and a jaded actor—who find themselves drawn irrevocably together in this lavish, sensual portrait of a nation in crisis.

**José, F. Sionil. *The Rosales Saga*.**

The Rosales Saga, also known as the Rosales Novels, is a series of five historical and political novels written by Filipino National Artist F. Sionil José. Chronologically, it is composed of five interconnected novels, namely *Po-on* (written in 1984), *Tree* (written in 1978), *My Brother, My Executioner* (written in 1973), *The Pretenders* (written in 1962), and *Mass* (written in 1973). The Rosales Saga traced the five generations of two families, namely the Samsons (poor farmers) and the Asperri (wealthy mestizos) through Spanish and American periods in the history of the Philippines until the period after Philippine Independence. José begun writing the series in 1962 and completed it in 1984. The New York Times said of Jose... “His novels, rich in themes and scenes drawn from his own peasant beginnings, amounted to a continuing morality play about the poverty and class divisions of the Philippines, a nation seemingly in thrall to fiefs, oligarchies and political dynasties.”

**Rizal, Jose. *Noli Me Tangere*.**

In more than a century since its appearance, José Rizal’s *Noli Me Tangere* has become widely known as the great novel of the Philippines. A passionate love story set against the ugly political backdrop of repression, torture, and murder, “The Noli,” as it is called in the Philippines, was the first major artistic manifestation of Asian resistance to European colonialism, and Rizal became a guiding conscience—and martyr—for the revolution that would subsequently rise up in the Spanish province.

**Syjuco, Miguel. *Ilustrado*. Macmillan, 2008.**

It begins with a body. On a clear day in winter, the battered corpse of Crispin Salvador is pulled from the Hudson River. Gone, too, is the only manuscript of his final book, a work

meant to rescue him from obscurity by exposing the crimes of the Filipino ruling families. Miguel, his student and only remaining friend, sets out for Manila to investigate.

The result is a rich and dramatic family saga of four generations, tracing one hundred and fifty years of Philippine history forged under the Spanish, the Americans, and the Filipinos themselves. Exuberant and wise, wildly funny and deeply moving, *Ilustrado* is a daring and inventive debut novel that "begins as a murder mystery and develops into an ambitious exploration of cultural identity, ambition, and artistic purpose.

# YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION

**Martinez, Xiuhtezcatl. *Imaginary Borders*. Penguin Workshop, 2020.**

In this personal, moving essay, environmental activist and hip-hop artist Xiuhtezcatl Martinez uses his art and his activism to show that climate change is a human issue that can't be ignored.

**Paterno, Maria Elena, Roberto SP De Ocampo, and Francisca F. Caberoy. *Incredible Mysteries: Natural Wonders of the Philippines*. Tahanan Books for Young Readers, 1996.**

This book explains how eight natural wonders in the Philippines evolved over thousands of years into incredible geologic forms.

**Peterson, Christy. *Earth Day and the Global Environmental Movement: Standing Up for Earth*. Twenty-First Century Books, 2020.**

Fifty years after the first Earth Day, climate change remains a dire concern. The divide between political parties continues to widen, and environmental policy has become an increasingly partisan issue. The spread of disinformation has also made climate change a debatable idea, rather than scientific fact. A new generation of advocates continue the fight to make environmental policy a top priority for the United States and for nations around the globe.

**Rao, Anuradha S. *One Earth: People of Color Protecting Our Planet*. Orca Book Publishers, 2020.**

*One Earth* profiles Black, Indigenous and People of Color who live and work as environmental defenders. Through their individual stories, the book shows that the intersection of environment and ethnicity is an asset to achieving environmental goals. The twenty short biographies introduce readers to diverse activists from all around the world, who are of many ages and ethnicities.



# YOUNG ADULT FICTION

**Cole, Olivia A. *A Conspiracy of Stars*. Katherine Tegen Books, 2018.**

Octavia has always dreamed of becoming a whitecoat, one of the prestigious N'Terra scientists who study the natural wonders of Faloiv. So when the once-secretive labs are suddenly opened to students, she leaps at the chance to see what happens behind their closed doors.

**Hamilton, Ian. *The Sultan of Sarawak*. House of Anansi Press Inc., 2022.**

After a warehouse owned by the Three Sisters is destroyed under suspicious circumstances, Ava Lee travels to the Malaysian province of Sarawak to investigate. She quickly discovers that the powerful Chong family has a political and economic stranglehold on the province and is likely responsible for the warehouse. As Ava digs deeper into the Chongs, she is shocked to learn of their billion-dollar illegal logging operation in Sarawak, which has decimated the Bornean rainforest and threatens the existence of the Penan—a nomadic Indigenous people who have lived in the region for centuries.

**Pfitsch, Patricia Curtis. *Riding the Flume*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002.**

During the summer of 1894 the giant sequoia trees—the oldest living things on earth—are being felled for lumber in northern California. When fifteen-year-old Francie finds a note hidden in the stump of an old sequoia, she immediately recognizes her sister's handwriting. But Carrie died in an accident six years ago. Could Carrie's secret still be important?

**Ribay, Randy. *Patron Saints of Nothing*. Kokila, 2019.**

Jay Reguero plans to spend the last semester of his senior year playing video games before heading to the University of Michigan in the fall. But when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story.

# BOOKS FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS AND CHILDREN

**Burchett, Jan, and Sara Vogler. *Rainforest Rescue*. Stone Arch Books, 2012.**

Ben and Zoe arrive in South Borneo to help rehome an orangutan in a wildlife refuge, where they discover that illegal logging is taking place.

**Kostecki-Shaw, Jenny Sue. *Luna & Me: The True Story of a Girl Who Lived in a Tree to Save a Forest*. Christy Ottaviano Books, 2015.**

*Luna & Me* is the true story of a girl who lived in a redwood tree to save it from being cut down.

**Lappano, Jon-Erik. *Tokyo Digs a Garden*. Groundwood Books Ltd, 2016.**

Tokyo lives in a small house between giant buildings with his family and his cat, Kevin. For years, highways and skyscrapers have been built up around the family's house where once there were hills and trees. Will they ever experience the natural world again?

**Sechrist, Elizabeth Hough. *Once in the First Times: Folk Tales from the Philippines*. Macrae Smith Co., 1969.**

A collection of fifty-one folktales from the Philippine Islands which tell of the animals, customs, and beliefs of the early Filipino people.