

U. S. Historical Fiction



Benchley, Nathaniel, George, the drummer boy. New York : HarperTrophy, 1987.
Summary: A view of the incidents at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, which were the start of the American Revolution, as seen from the eyes of George, a British drummer boy.
Reading Level: 3.3
Call Number E BEN

Birtha, Becky, Grandmama's pride. Morton Grove, Ill. : Albert Whitman, 2005.
Summary: While on a trip in 1956 to visit her grandmother in the South, six-year-old Sarah Marie experiences segregation for the first time, but discovers that things have changed by the time she returns the following year.
Call Number E BIR

Greeson, Janet, An American army of two. Minneapolis : Carolrhoda Books, c1992.
Summary: During the War of 1812, Rebecca and Abigail Bates save their town's ships from the British by playing "Yankee Doodle" on a fife and drum to simulate the approach of American troops.
Reading Level: 2.9
Call Number E GRE

Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Virgie goes to school with us boys. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2000.
Summary: In the post-Civil War South, a young African American girl is determined to prove that she can go to school just like her older brothers.
Reading Level: 2.5
Call Number E HOW

Littlefield, Holly, Fire at the Triangle factory. Minneapolis, MN : Carolrhoda Books, c1996.
Summary: Two fourteen-year-old girls, sewing machine operators at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company, are caught in the famous Triangle fire of 1911.
Reading Level: 3.5
Call Number E LIT

Lo, Ginnie, Mahjong all day long. New York : Walker & Co., 2005.
Summary: Two young Chinese children grow up seeing their family play the game mahjong with family and friends. Soon they grow up and teach the tradition to their families. Includes information on the history of mahjong and contains a list of books for further research.
Reading Level: 2.6
Call Number E LO

Ransom, Candice F., Rescue on the Outer Banks. Minneapolis : Carolrhoda Books, c2002.
Summary: Sam Deal and his horse, Ginger, help an African-American lifesaving crew rescue shipwreck victims off the coast of North Carolina in 1896.
Reading Level: 3.5
Call Number E RAN

Trottier, Maxine, Prairie willow. Toronto ; Stoddart Kids ; 1999.
Summary: Planted lovingly in the springtime of her life, Emily's weeping willow becomes a living symbol of the warmth, strength and history shared by one family.
Reading Level: 3.6
Call Number E TRO

Turner, Ann Warren, Katie's trunk. New York : Aladdin Paperbacks, 1997.
Summary: Katie, whose family is not sympathetic to the rebel soldiers during the American Revolution, hides under the

clothes in her mother's wedding trunk when they invade her home.

Reading Level: 3.6

Call Number E TUR

Bauer, Marion Dane. Land of the buffalo bones : the diary of Mary Elizabeth Rodgers, an English girl in Minnesota. New York : Scholastic, 2003.

Summary: Fourteen-year-old Polly Rodgers keeps a diary of her 1873 journey from England to Minnesota as part of a colony of eighty people seeking religious freedom, and of their first year struggling to make a life there, led by her father, a Baptist minister.

Reading Level: 5.9

Call Number F BAU

Brown, Jackie. Little Cricket. New York : Hyperion Books for Children, c2004.

Summary: After the upheaval of the Vietnam War reaches them, twelve-year-old Kia and her Hmong family flee from the mountains of Laos to a refugee camp in Thailand and eventually to the alien world of Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Reading Level: 6.0

Call Number F BRO

Carbone, Elisa Lynn. Storm warriors. New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2001.

Summary: In 1895, after his mother's death, twelve-year-old Nathan moves with his father and grandfather to Pea Island off the coast of North Carolina, where he hopes to join the all-black crew at the nearby lifesaving station, despite his father's objections.

Reading Level: 5.5

Call Number F CAR

Collier, James Lincoln, War comes to Willy Freeman. New York : Dell Yearling, [1987], c1983.

Summary: A free thirteen-year-old black girl in Connecticut is caught up in the horror of the Revolutionary War and the danger of being returned to slavery when her patriot father is killed by the British and her mother disappears.

Reading Level: 4.9

Call Number F COL

Currier, Katrina Saltonstall, Kai's journey to Gold Mountain : an Angel Island story. Tiburon, CA : Angel Island Association, c2005.

Summary: In 1934, twelve-year-old Kai leaves China to join his father in America, but first he must take a long sea voyage, then endure weeks of crowded conditions and harsh examinations on Angel Island, fearing that he or his new friend will be sent home.

Call Number F CUR

Cushman, Karen. Rodzina. New York : Clarion Books, c2003.

Summary: A twelve-year-old Polish American girl is boarded onto an orphan train in Chicago with fears about traveling to the West and a life of unpaid slavery.

Reading Level: 4.8

Call Number F CUS

Gregory, Kristiana. Five smooth stones : Hope's diary. New York : Scholastic, 2001.

Summary: In her diary, a young girl writes about her life and the events surrounding the beginning of the American Revolution in Philadelphia in 1776.

Reading Level: 4.4

Call Number F GRE

Hansen, Joyce. I thought my soul would rise and fly : the diary of Patsy, a freed girl. New York : Scholastic, 2003.

Summary: Twelve-year-old Patsy keeps a diary of the ripe but confusing time following the end of the Civil War and the granting of freedom to former slaves.

Reading Level: 5.0

Call Number F HAN

Lunn, Janet Louise Swoboda, Laura Secord : a story of courage. Toronto, Ont. ; Tundra Books, 2002.

Summary: Laura warns the British of a coming American attack during the War of 1812.

Reading Level: 5.4

Call Number F LUN

O'Dell, Scott, Sarah Bishop. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, c1980.

Summary: Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother who take opposite sides in the War for Independence, and fleeing from the British who seek to arrest her, Sarah Bishop struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness.

Reading Level: 4.9

Call Number F ODE

Porter, Connie Rose, Addy learns a lesson : a school story. Middleton, WI : Pleasant Co., c2000.

Summary: After their escape from North Carolina to Philadelphia in the summer of 1864, Addy and her mother begin their new life as free people as her mother gets a paying job and Addy goes to school and learns a lesson in true friendship.

Reading Level: 3.9

Call Number F POR

Porter, Connie Rose, Addy saves the day : a summer story. Middleton, WI : Pleasant Co., 2000.

Summary: Addy and Harriet feud over everything, including fund-raising plans to help the families of freed slaves, but tragedy finally forces them to stop fighting and work together.

Reading Level: 4.0

Call Number F POR

Porter, Connie Rose, Addy's surprise : a Christmas story. Middleton, WI : Pleasant Co., c2000.

Summary: Addy and her mother forgo their Christmas plans to help the newly freed slaves arriving in Philadelphia during the Civil War.

Reading Level: 4.4

Call Number F POR

Pryor, Bonnie. Thomas in danger. New York : Morrow Junior Books, c1999.

Summary: Having lost their home when the Revolutionary War reached their part of rural Pennsylvania, Thomas and his family start a new life running an inn in Philadelphia, where Thomas finds new danger that takes him into captivity among the Iroquois.

Reading Level: 5.0

Call Number F PRY

Reichart, George. A bag of lucky rice : a novel. Boston, Mass. : David R. Godine, 2004.

Summary: Rusty, an old prospector, and Lo Fat and Lee, two Chinese living in the small mining town of Rhyolite, Nevada, become friends and share the excitement of finding gold in the Amargosa Desert.

Reading Level: 6.1

Call Number F REI

Robinet, Harriette. Forty acres and maybe a mule. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c1998.

Summary: Born with a withered leg and hand, Pascal, who is about twelve years old, joins other former slaves in a search for a farm and the freedom which it promises.

Reading Level: 4.3

Call Number F ROB

Rodman, Mary Ann. Yankee girl. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004.

Summary: When her FBI-agent father is transferred to Jackson, Mississippi, in 1964, eleven-year-old Alice wants to be popular but also wants to reach out to the one black girl in her class in a newly-integrated school.

Reading Level: 3.7

Call Number F ROD

Tripp, Valerie, Changes for Josefina : a winter story. Middleton, Wis. : Pleasant Co. Publications, c2000.
Summary: When Tia Dolores, the beloved aunt who has cared for the Montoya family since the death of their mother, announces that she is planning to leave, Josefina and her sisters try to find a way to change her mind.
Reading Level: 4.3
Call Number F TRI

Tripp, Valerie, Happy birthday, Josefina! : a springtime story. Middleton, WI : Pleasant Co., c2000.
Summary: Josefina hopes to become a "curandera," or healer, like Tia Magdalena, and she is tested just before her tenth birthday when a friend receives a potentially fatal snakebite.
Reading Level: 4.3
Call Number F TRI

Tripp, Valerie, Josefina learns a lesson : a school story. Middleton, WI : Pleasant Co., c2000.
Summary: Josefina and her sisters distrust learning to read and write, as well as other changes their Tia Dolores is bringing to the household, because they fear they will lose their memories of their mother.
Reading Level: 4.5
Call Number F TRI

Tripp, Valerie, Josefina saves the day : a summer story. Middleton, WI : Pleasant Co., c2000.
Summary: In 1825 when Josefina trusts a trader in Santa Fe with an important deal, she makes a surprising discovery about this young American who leaves town without paying her.
Reading Level: 4.2
Call Number F TRI

Tripp, Valerie, Josefina's surprise : a Christmas story. Middleton, WI : Pleasant Co., c2000.
Summary: The second Christmas after their mother has died, Josefina and her three sisters find that participating in the traditions of Las Posadas helps keep memories of Mama alive.
Reading Level: 4.6
Call Number F TRI

Tripp, Valerie, Meet Josefina, an American girl. Middleton, WI : American Girl, c2000.
Summary: Nine-year-old Josefina, the youngest of four sisters living in New Mexico in 1824, tries to help run the household after her mother dies.
Reading Level: 4.1
Call Number F TRI

Vander Zee, Ruth. Mississippi morning. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, c2004.
Summary: Amidst the economic depression and the racial tension of the 1930s, a boy discovers a horrible secret of his father's involvement in the Ku Klux Klan.
Call Number F VAN

Wyeth, Sharon Dennis. Message in the sky. New York : Scholastic, 2003.
Summary: Ten-year-old Corey Birdsong, a former slave, becomes a conductor on the Underground Railroad by helping to bring a mother and daughter, runaway slaves, to his family's Amherstburg, Ontario, farm in 1859.
Reading Level: 4.0
Call Number F WYE

Yep, Laurence. When the circus came to town. New York : HarperCollins, c2002.
Summary: An Asian cook and a Chinese New Year celebration help a ten-year-old girl at a Montana stage coach station to regain her confidence after smallpox scars her face.
Reading Level: 4.0
Call Number F YEP