



2024 Summer Reading Program

JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

HISTORICAL FICTION BOOKS





HELPFUL TIP!

In addition to titles and authors, this catalog also provides you with the Reading Level of each book. You'll find it marked as "RL" under the title. Reading level indicates the difficulty of text sentences and is based on grade level. So a book with a RL: 5.0 would mean that a typical fifth grader could read the words independently. Reading level is a measure of the text, and does not necessarily correspond with the age appropriateness of the content.

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*"Those that fail to learn from
history are doomed to repeat it."
Winston Churchill*

HISTORICAL FICTION

Churchill knew that history is among the greatest of teachers, the giver of experience, and thus of wisdom. When we read a book of history, the author is preserving for us the significant deeds of the past, giving an immortality to people and actions that deserve them. Herodotus writes, "The purpose is to prevent the traces of human events from being erased by time, and to preserve the fame of the important and remarkable achievements." One need not look further than the Bible to see how important this is. The central and culminating event of all history, the Incarnation, is written in that book. History led up to this critical moment and then all has been radically changed after.

History provides a framework, and, if well done, can provide the important context too. So, how should one study history? In Kolbe Academy's high school program, wherever it is possible, we read primary accounts. We read Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, Plutarch, Livy, Tacitus, and Augustine. These are rewarding readings, but challenging ones. How does one prepare for these?

The answer is through an introduction to these great books, which can be gained, in large part through historical fiction. Historical fiction can pique curiosity and lead to deep reflection. Historical fiction is the best storytelling. Storytelling opens a child's imagination and makes the past relatable. Historical fiction helps children to understand human situations and the human condition. It connects the past and the present. It immerses the reader in the past so that they can see, hear, and consider from the perspective of those outside their limited perspective. It is no surprise studies have shown that children who read historical fiction to learn facts rather than an informational text

have improved socio-emotional development. Students who have learned their history through fiction can sympathize and relate to characters in the story. In this act of sympathy, the students are forming connections outside themselves. They are finding common ground.

In living vicariously through the characters of the book, the students will be able to make comparisons to their own lives. The students are more reflective and careful, having considered options. A good writer can take a character and explain their personality, using the facts to check their view. This is consoling to a student. They feel that people are understandable and rational in their actions.

I remember a case in point from my childhood. I had read the historical fiction story, *The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey. In the story, our main character is a detective who is confined to his bed and in boredom he turns to study the case of the lost princes. This is not a fiction case. Richard III, King of England, was accused of murdering the princes, sons of his brother, to take the throne. The fiction story, though, drew me in. I was captivated as the author explained the difficulties with the accepted story based on the character of the man and the possible motives. That story was all I needed to continue my studies. I read every book published at the time about the case. It led me, through twists and turns, to study Thomas More, the War of the Roses, Joan of Arc, and the Albigenian heresy. That one little book was a drop of water that opened a floodgate.

History is all connected. So find a time period and a place that interests your child and then let the path unfold. Happy reading!

Maggie Hayden
Curriculum Director



TABLE OF CONTENTS

KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE	5
GRADES 3RD - 5TH.....	11
GRADES 6TH - 8TH.....	29
GRADES 9TH - 12TH	43

STORYTIME

Kindergarten to Second Grade

Storytime: Introduce your little ones to the world they live in. That world has been shaped and enriched by heroes of the past. Teach them the stories when they are young so that they will be ordered to a life of virtuous living.



Ancient to 500 A.D.

ZEMAN, LUDMILA

Gilgamesh the King

(The Gilgamesh Trilogy: Book 1)

A children's retelling of what is said to be the world's oldest story. Gilgamesh is half-god and half-man, and his loneliness drives him to be a cruel and merciless leader. When his people call out to the Sun God for relief from Gilgamesh's cruelty, the Sun God creates Enkidu, a half-animal and half-man who does not understand cruelty. What will happen when these powerful figures meet? (Part one of a trilogy)

RL: 4.2 | Ancient BC | 600s | Middle East

ROBBINS, RUTH. SIDJAKOV, NICOLAS ILL.

Baboushka and the Three Kings

Based on a Russian folk tale, Baboushka is too busy to join the Three Kings on their journey to meet the baby Jesus. Regretting her decision, she sets out to look for Jesus. Every Christmas season she still searches for the Christ Child, leaving presents for children along her way.

RL: 3.9 | Ancient | New Testament Era | Russia | Caldecott Medal

BUNTING, EVE

I Am the Mummy Heb-Nefert

Heb-Nefert lived a life of luxury as a wife in the Egyptian royal family, but now lies in her tomb as a mummy. In death, she reflects on her life in this hauntingly poetic and beautifully illustrated story.

RL: 4.2 | Ancient | 1100s | Egypt

PARK, LINDA SUE

The Third Gift

Using the biblical story of the three wise men as a jumping off point, this picture book tells the story of how ordinary people can participate in extraordinary events.

RL: 3.2 | Ancient | New Testament Era | Middle East



KUNHARDT, EDITH

Pompeii...Buried Alive!

(Step into Reading: Step 4)

This true story of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius describes village life before the eruption, the eruption itself, the aftermath, and the discovery of the ash-covered town centuries later.

RL: 3.2 | Non-Fiction | New Testament Era | Italy

Middle Ages

ZEMAN, LUDMILA

Sinbad: From the Tales of Thousand and One Nights

The daring tale of Sinbad and his adventures throughout the world.

RL: 5.2 | Middle Ages | 700s | Middle East | Roman Catholic History

WHELAN, GLORIA

Smudge and the Book of Mistakes

In Ireland in the Middle Ages, young Brother Cuthbert, known for making mistakes and giving up easily, is chosen through a miscommunication to serve as scribe for an illuminated manuscript of the Nativity story.

RL: 4.9 | Middle Ages | 700s | Ireland

CHAUCE, GEOFFREY

Chanticleer and the Fox

A fable that teaches valuable lessons about vanity, deception, and the consequences of trusting too easily. Adapted and illustrated by Barbara Cooney.

RL: 4.6 | Middle Ages | 1300s | England

1400s

POOLE, JOSEPHINE

Joan of Arc

This picture book biography tells the story of Joan of Arc, the French peasant girl who listened to heavenly voices and joined the fight for her country. She left everything she knew behind, dressed as a man, and died for her faith, becoming a saint beloved by all.

RL: 4.8 | Religious Faith | 1400s | France

1500s

HILGARTNER, BETH

A Murder for Her Majesty

After witnessing the murder of her father, Alice flees for her life. She disguises herself as a boy named Pup and finds refuge as a choirboy in the Cathedral of York.

RL: 5.0 | Middle Ages | 1500s | England

1600s

BRUCHAC, JOSEPH

Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving

Squanto welcomes newcomers from the Mayflower and teaches them how to plant crops. When a good harvest is gathered, the people all celebrate together at what is now remembered as the First Thanksgiving.

RL: 4.2 | Native American | 1600s | America: MA

AVI

Finding Providence: The Story of Roger William

When Mary Williams's father is put on trial for his new ideas on freedom, he flees from Connecticut and tells Mary to trust in God's providence. Months later, she's able to follow him and see his newly founded town of Providence, Rhode Island.

RL: 3.3 | Religious Faith | 1600s | America: RI | I Can Read chapter book

1700s

BULLA, CLYDE ROBERT

A Lion to Guard Us

Left on their own in London after their mother's death, three impoverished children draw upon their courage and creativity to stay together and make their way to the Virginia colony in search of their father.

RL: 2.9 | Family Life | 1700s | America: VA

DAVIES, JACQUELINE

Tricking the Tallyman

When the tallyman arrives in a small Vermont town to count the population, everyone hides in fear of an increase in taxation. But when they learn that the census also determines how much representation they have in government, suddenly everyone appears—even "people" with whiskers and tails.

RL: 3.7 | Frontier | 1700s | America: VT

1800s

HALL, DONALD. COONEY, BARBARA ILL.

Ox-Cart Man

The days, weeks, months, and seasons of a 19th century New England family are told through beautiful illustrations and lyrical text.

RL: 4.5 | Family Life | 1800s | America | Caldecott Medal

PARK, LINDA SUE

The Firekeeper's Son

In early 19th-century Korea, news travels by signal fires. If the king sees a fire, that means all is well. If he does not, that means there is trouble and he sends out his army. This picture book follows Sang-hee, a young boy who attempts to take over the task of lighting the evening fire after his father is injured.

RL: 3.0 | Family Life | 1800s | Korea

D'AULAIRE, INGRI AND EDGAR

Abraham Lincoln

The life of one of America's most beloved presidents is told through vivid illustrations and engaging text. From his childhood in Kentucky to his life in Washington, the inspiring life of Abraham Lincoln is retold for young children.

RL: 5.2 | Frontier | 1800s | America: IL | Caldecott Medal

BULLA, CLYDE ROBERT

White Bird

John Thomas is lonely in the backwoods of Tennessee until he finds an injured bird and adopts him as his pet. But then someone steals White Bird, and John Thomas must take off on his own to get him back.

RL: 2.8 | Frontier | 1800s | America: TN

CARBONE, ELISA

Heroes of the Surf

Two boys on the steamship Pliny pretend to be pirates as they sail. But when they wake up to a raging storm and the ship hits a shoal, their imaginary adventure becomes every bit real, requiring rescue from the U.S. Live-Saving Service, a precursor of the U.S. Coast Guard.

RL: 3.8 | Modern | 1800s | America: NJ

BRUCHAC, JOSEPH

The Trail of Tears

(Step Into Reading: Step 5)

When gold is discovered on Cherokee lands, the Cherokee are forced to leave and endure a twelve-hundred-mile journey to Oklahoma known as the Trail of Tears.

RL: 4.8 | Native American | 1800s | America

BUNTING, EVE

Cheyenne Again

When Young Bull is taken from his family and Cheyenne tribe to attend a boarding school, he must learn the white man's ways. But he isn't so quick to give up his own heritage.

RL: 2.9 | Native American | 1800s | America

KAY, VERLA

Orphan Train

When three siblings are taken into an orphanage, they think their prayers have been answered. Instead of stealing to survive, they're given food and clothing. But then they board the Orphan Train, and one of the siblings is picked without the others.

RL: 2.1 | Orphan Story | 1800s | America

A GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S BOOKS

PICTURE BOOKS

Picture and lapbooks are great books to just hand to your child to look at, as well as read to your child. Children can use the pictures to recall the stories and relive them in their minds.

STORYBOOKS

Storybooks include many timeless stories. These are the classics! Many of these might appeal to the whole family.

READERS

Readers are great books for beginning readers. Does your little one want to spread his wings and start reading on his own? These books are great for the new reader.

BUNTING, EVE

Train to Somewhere

Marianne rides the Orphan Train, searching each stop for her mother, who promised to come back for her once she settled into a new life in the West. But stop after stop goes by, and her mom doesn't claim her—and neither does anyone else.

RL: 2.8 | Orphan Story | 1800s | America

HOUSTON, GLORIA

My Great-Aunt Arizona

Born in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Arizona grew up dreaming of seeing the world. Instead, she spends her life as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, where she inspires more children than she can imagine.

RL: 4.0 | Non-Fiction | 1800s | America

MARTIN, JACQUELINE BRIGGS. AZARIAN, MARY ILL.

Snowflake Bentley

This biography tells the story of Wilson Bentley, called Snowflake Bentley, who became the first person to photograph a single snow crystal in 1885. He spent his life cataloguing hundreds of pictures of snowflakes and showing the world their beauty and unique nature.

RL: 4.4 | Non-Fiction | 1800s | America | Caldecott Medal

FLOCA, BRIAN

Locomotive

In 1869, families and crews travel the newly built transcontinental railroad across America, enjoying the changing landscape.

RL: 4.7 | Non-Fiction | 1800s | America | Caldecott Medal

WEATHERFORD, CAROLE BOSTON

Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom

Harriet Tubman hears the voice of God leading her to escape slavery and summons the courage to do so. She then subsequently makes nineteen additional trips to save others, all while risking her own life.

RL: 4.0 | Slavery | 1800s | America | Caldecott Honor

LEVINE, ELLEN

Henry's Freedom Box

Henry Brown has been a slave all his life, working in a warehouse and dreaming of freedom. But when his family is torn from him, he grows desperate to escape. Then he has an idea—he can ship himself north in one of the wooden crates in the warehouse.

RL: 3.0 | Slavery | 1800s | America | Caldecott Honor

MONJO, F. N.

The Drinking Gourd

When ten-year-old Quaker boy Tommy Fuller finds runaway slaves at his door, he discovers his house is a stop along the Underground Railroad and must keep the runaways secret and safe.

RL: 3.0 | Slavery | 1800s | America

HOPKINSON, DEBORAH

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt

Clara dreams of freedom and reuniting with her mother. So when she overhears other slaves talking about the Underground Railroad, she is inspired to transform her quilt into a secret map to freedom that her master will never suspect.

RL: 3.8 | Slavery | 1800s | America

VANHECKE, SUSAN

Under the Freedom Tree

When escaped slaves cross the Confederate line, they are declared "contraband of war" and offered protection by Union troops. Soon, other runaway slaves follow, marking the "beginning of the end of slavery." The story is told in free verse.

RL: 3.3 | U.S. Civil War | 1800s | America

To register for a Kolbe Summer Reading Club and to learn about our Summer Reading Challenge visit kolbe.org/summer-reading-program

1900s

MILHOUS, KATHERINE

The Egg Tree

An egg hunt at Grandmom's one Easter morning leads Katy up to the attic, where she learns about the Dutch tradition of the egg tree.

RL: 3.5 | Family Life | 1900s | America | Caldecott Medal

BLACKALL, SOPHIE

Hello Lighthouse

The daily life of a lighthouse keeper and his family unfolds over several seasons in this beloved picture book.

RL: 3.4 | Family Life | 1900s | America | Caldecott Medal

RYLANT, CYNTHIA

When I Was Young in the Mountains

The story of an Appalachian childhood that embraces a love of a place, a way of life, and the simple pleasures of nature.

RL: 3.6 | Family Life | 1900s | America

BUNTING, EVE

So Far from the Sea

Laura Iwasaki and her family visit her grandfather's grave at a Japanese American WWII internment camp. As Laura's father recalls his time there as a small boy, Laura says goodbye to her grandfather in a gesture that shows that patriotism can survive despite a nation's shameful past.

RL: 3.4 | Family Life | 1900s | America

DALGLIESH, ALICE

The Bears on Hemlock Mountain

A young boy sent on an errand over Hemlock Mountain is not so sure he likes going alone, because there may be bears on the mountain. But with the help of the big iron pot he borrows, he completes his errand.

RL: 3.5 | Frontier | 1900s | America: PA | Newbery Honor

SAY, ALLEN

Grandfather's Journey

A man recounts his grandfather's journey from Japan to America and the tension between his love for both countries.

RL: 3.6 | Immigrants | 1900s | America | Caldecott Honor

COHEN, BARBARA

Molly's Pilgrim

Molly is about to celebrate her first Thanksgiving in America, but she's not feeling particularly thankful. Her mother's attempt at making a "pilgrim" doll for class looks more like a Russian refugee, which can only serve to add to the ways her classmates make fun of her for being different. But thanks to Molly, the class will soon learn that America needs all sorts of pilgrims.

RL: 3.0 | Immigrants | 1900s | America: NY

AVI

Silent Movie

When a Swedish family arrives in America after Papa to start their new life, they can't find Papa. They struggle with hardship upon hardship until the son takes a role in a silent movie, which not only earns them a living but also helps them reunite with Papa.

RL: 1.9 | Immigrants | 1900s | America

POLACCO, PATRICIA

The Keeping Quilt

The Original Classic Edition Only

After leaving Russia, Anna's mother makes a quilt out of a basket of old clothes belonging to their relatives. Over four generations, the quilt serves many purposes. From a receiving blanket to a wedding canopy to a Sabbath tablecloth, the quilt ties together a family separated by ocean and centuries.

RL: 4.4 | Immigrants | 1900s | America



ACKERMAN, KAREN

Song and Dance Man

The story follows a grandfather who reminisces to his grandchildren about his days as a vaudeville performer.

RL: 4.0 | Modern | 1900s | America | Caldecott Honor

MCCULLY, EMILY ARNOLD

Mirette, on the High Wire

A young girl, Mirette, learns to walk the high wire and discovers her talent for the daring feat. A tale of friendship, courage, and the pursuit of dreams.

RL: 3.6 | Modern | 1900s | America | Caldecott Honor

MATTICK, LINDSAY. BLACKALL, SOPHIE ILL.

Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear

The heartwarming true story of how Winnie-the-Pooh, one of the most beloved characters in children's literature, came to be.

RL: 3.4 | Modern | 1900s | England | Caldecott Honor

LAWSON, ROBERT

They Were Strong and Good

This book follows the lives of the author's grandparents, describing their childhoods, their families, and the challenges they faced as immigrants. It depicts their experiences traveling to America, their struggles to adapt to a new way of life, and their eventual success in building a home and a future for themselves and their children.

RL: 4.1 | Modern | 1900s | America | Caldecott Medal

BURTON, VIRGINIA LEE

The Little House

This book tells the story of a small, quaint house that is built in the countryside and watches as the world changes around it over the years.

RL: 4.2 | Modern | 1900s | America | Caldecott Medal

POLITI, LEO

Song of the Swallows

The story of a young boy named Juan who learns about the annual migration of the swallows to the Mission San Juan Capistrano. On the day of the feast of Saint Joseph, Juan eagerly waits for the swallows to appear.

RL: 4.6 | Modern | 1900s | America: CA | Caldecott Medal

KEATS, EZRA JACK

The Snowy Day

A small boy experiences the joys of a snowy day.

RL: 2.5 | Modern | 1900s | America: CA | Caldecott Medal

TRESSELT, ALVIN

White Snow, Bright Snow

At the first signs of snow, the town grown-ups take care of practical matters, but the children embrace the moment to enjoy the wonders of nature.

RL: 4.2 | Modern | 1900s | America | Caldecott Medal

GERSTEIN, MORDICAI

The Man Who Walked Between the Towers

In 1974, Phillippe Petit dazzled the crowd with daring feats on a tightrope stretched between the World Trade Center towers, a quarter of a mile above the ground.

RL: 3.7 | Modern | 1900s | America: NY | Caldecott Medal

MATHIS, SHARON BELL

The Hundred Penny Box

Michael loves spending time with his great-great-aunt Dew and hearing stories of her hundred years of life, represented by each penny in her penny box. But when Michael's mother wants to get rid of the ragged old box, Michael must help his mother understand that the box is just as important as the pennies inside.

RL: 3.9 | Modern | 1900s | America | Newbery Honor

BYARS, BETSY

Tornado

A family seeks refuge in the storm cellar at the sight of a tornado. But they soon forget their worries as the farmhand recounts a story of a dog named Tornado that was blown into his life one stormy day.

RL: 3.2 | Modern | 1900s | America | Newbery Honor

MCCARTHY, MEGHAN

The Incredible Life of Balto

Balto led his dogsled team through a blizzard to deliver life-saving medicine to people in Alaska in 1925, launching him into celebrity status. But little is known about his life after this great feat—until now.

RL: 4.7 | Modern | 1900s | America: AK

PREUS, MARGI

The Peace Bell

Yuko's grandmother recounts the story of her town's temple bell that was donated to the war effort, presumably for use as scrap metal. Many years later, she discovers that the bell landed in Minnesota, taken to America by the U.S. Navy after it was discovered in a Japanese shipyard. She recalls it being returned to Japan as the Peace Bell, a gesture of friendship between America and Japan.

RL: 4.1 | Modern | 1900s | Japan

PROVENSEN, ALICE & MARTIN

The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Blériot

The story of the first man to fly across the English Channel in the 1900s in his Bleriot XI.

RL: 2.6 | Non-Fiction | 1900s | Europe | Caldecott Medal

BLOS, JOAN W.

The Heroine of the Titanic

In this collection of anecdotes—true and otherwise—the life of Molly Brown, perhaps the most famous survivor of the Titanic, is revealed.

RL: 4.9 | Titanic | 1900s | Atlantic Ocean

BISHOP, CLAIRE HUCHET

Pancakes-Paris

Shortly after the end of World War II in Paris, ten-year-old Charles receives a box of pancake mix from American GIs for his help. Determined to surprise his mother and sister with a celebration of Mardi Gras like "Before" but unable to read the English directions, Charles sets out to make crepes and experience a bit of joy.

RL: 5.4 | WWII | 1900s | France | Newbery Honor



LET'S ADVENTURE

Third Grade to Fifth Grade

Reading is so much more than an entertaining tale. Reading encourages creativity, increases a child's focus and vocabulary, and it gives the child something truly worthy of shared communication. In sharing his ideas and thoughts, the child begins to wonder; he is stepping outside himself and exploring the world around him. Reading is also a place where, because the child can immerse himself in another world, he will be wholly present to that world, thinking deeply about one thing.



Ancient to 500 A.D.

POLLAND, MADELEINE A.

City of the Golden House

A powerful story of friendship and faith, the young Gretorix is a Roman slave charged with caring for Diomed, the disabled son of a Roman senator. When Diomed hears about a man named Peter who can heal the sick, Gretorix is sent to learn more and is witness to St. Peter's last days in Rome.

RL: 5.0 | Ancient | New Testament Era | Roman Empire

WILLIAMSON, JOANNE

God King

When young Prince Taharka is unexpectedly named pharaoh of Kush and ancient Egypt, he soon becomes the target of a plot that sends him into exile. In exile he meets Amos, an emissary of King Hezekiah, and is caught up in a war between several nations. A fictional tale based on the Book of Kings and ancient Egyptian civilization.

RL: 4.3 | Ancient | BC 700s | Egypt/Judea

MULLENHEIM, SOPHIE DE

The Phantom of the Colosseum

(In the Shadows of Rome: Book 1)

The first book in the *Shadows of Rome* series introduces us to Maximus, Titus, and Aghlies and their adventures spreading Christianity amongst the dangers of Roman persecution.

RL: 4.0 | Ancient | AD 200s | Rome | Regina Medal | Catholic Author

SPEARE, ELIZABETH GEORGE

The Bronze Bow

Daniel bar Jarmin is an Israelite teenager, who is consumed with thoughts of revenge after his father is crucified by the Romans. That is, until he meets a mysterious traveling carpenter who causes Daniel to question everything.

RL: 5.0 | Ancient | New Testament Era | Judea | Newbery Medal | Kolbe

MCGRAW, ELOISE JARVIS

Mara, Daughter of the Nile

Mara is a smart and proud slave girl living in ancient Egypt, who desires nothing more than to be free. Seeing a path to freedom, she finds herself acting as a double-spy for two enemies who are both vying for the Egyptian throne. A tale of intrigue and adventure, it is not just Mara's fate at stake but the fate of all Egypt.

RL: 6.3 | Ancient | BC 1400s | Egypt

BENDICK, JEANNE

Archimedes and the Door of Science

An examination of the life of the Greek mathematician and scientist Archimedes and how his culture and life influenced his work.

RL: 6.9 | Non-Fiction | BC 200s | Greece

BENDICK, JEANNE

Herodotus and the Road to History

Herodotus, who lived during the time of Malachi the prophet, takes a ship from Greece and discovers the ancient world.

RL: 6.9 | Non-Fiction | BC 400s | Greece

Middle Ages

JEWETT, ELEANORE M.

Big John's Secret

A young peasant boy learns that the answers to his family's mysterious past may lie in the Holy Land, and joins the 5th Crusade in an effort to find his father. Big John experiences battles, strife, and setbacks, but a meeting with a friar from Assisi changes the course of Big John's life.

RL: 5.1 | Crusades | 1200s | England/Holy Land

BURLEIGH, DAVID ROBERT

Arrow Messenger

Dashan dreams of becoming an arrow messenger—a select warrior able to dash to the ends of the empire in a flash. But becoming one requires proving it, and he's both small and ridiculed in his Mongolian village. On top of that, he must prove his manhood—which seems impossible when his uncle keeps him hidden at home—and train his horse and himself for a cross-country race.

RL: 5.7 | Middle Ages | 1200s | Asia

WILLARD, BARBARA

If All the Swords in England

Two twins are separated when Edmund serves the king and Simon works for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket. Between the two of them, they witness significant political happenings of the time—including Becket's murder.

RL: 5.9 | Middle Ages | 1100s | England

FRENCH, ALLEN

The Lost Baron

In Cornwall, thirteen-year-old Martin becomes a page and squire to Baron Eric. But Martin's first day may also be his last when the Baron disappears, leaving the temperamental Sir Basil in charge.

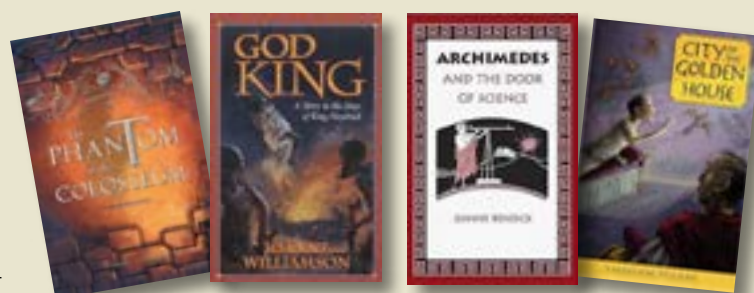
RL: 4.4 | Middle Ages | 1200s | England

MORRIS, FRANK

Alfred of Wessex

As prophesied by Pope Leo IV when Alfred was only four, Alfred becomes a great king of Wessex, the last Christian kingdom standing against the Danes. He faces many defeats but strives to unite the kingdoms of ninth-century England.

RL: 6.1 | Middle Ages | 800s | England



FRENCH, ALLEN

The Red Keep

Conan, a neighbor of the Red Keep, and orphaned Lady Anne, who had to flee the Red Keep when her family was murdered, set out to protect and reclaim the Red Keep from the Sauval brothers terrorizing the surrounding lands.

RL: 4.7 | Middle Ages | 1100s | France

WILLARD, BARBARA

Son of Charlemagne

Crossing the Alps on the way to visit the pope, King Charles tells his son Carl that when they reach Rome, he will be named heir. Over the years, Carl witnesses the strength and sacrifice required as his father disinherits his oldest son, a hunchback; faces battles and conquests, both political and spiritual; and eventually becomes the Holy Roman Emperor.

RL: 5.6 | Middle Ages | 700s | France

FRENCH, ALLEN

The Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow

When Rolf's father, Hiarandi the Unlucky, goes against Icelandic custom by lighting a fire to guide boats along the rocky shore instead of taking the spoils from the inevitable shipwrecks, his good deed costs him his life. His son, Rolf, is thereby outlawed. But Rolf carries on, bringing the light of Christianity with him.

RL: 4.7 | Middle Ages | 1000s | Iceland

POLLARD, MADELEINE

Beorn the Proud

Beorn, a Viking on his first raid, captures the daughter of an Irish chieftain named Ness. As he and his father's band of warriors travel back to Denmark amidst the turmoil and dangers of the sea, Beorn ridicules Ness for relying on her faith. But soon Beorn finds himself drawn to her humility and beliefs, which might be exactly what he needs.

RL: 5.1 | Middle Ages | 800s | Ireland/Denmark

GRAY, JANET

Adam of the Road

When Adam's father leaves to perform at a nobleman's castle, Adam and his faithful dog, Nick, set out on a journey to find him. As he searches for his father, Adam learns valuable lessons about loyalty, friendship, and the power of music.

RL: 6.5 | Middle Ages | 1200s | England | Newbery Medal

DE ANGELI, MARGUERITE

The Door in the Wall

Set in the Middle Ages, the tale tells the story of a young disabled boy, Lionel, who encounters a mysterious door in a wall that leads him into a beautiful and enchanted garden. Through his time in the garden, Lionel learns to overcome his physical limitations and finds his true path in life.

RL: 6.2 | Middle Ages | 1300s | England | Newbery Medal

KANG, HILDI

Chengli and the Silk road Caravan

Set in ancient China during the Tang Dynasty, this story follows the adventures of Chengli, a young boy who joins a caravan traveling along the Silk Road. Chengli returns home with a newfound sense of confidence and belonging, forever changed by his adventures.

RL: 5.4 | Middle Ages | 600s | Asia

POLLAND, MADELEINE

Fingal's Quest

When Irish monks come to Gaul in the mid-500s to restore Christianity, Fingal's master, Brother Columban, is chosen to go with them. Fingal, unwilling to lose his beloved master, follows after him. As he travels the country and comes up short, he leaves a trail of conversions behind that makes him wonder if God might be using his hardship for something greater.

RL: 5.0 | Religious Faith | 500s | Ireland/France

1400s

BRUCHAC, JOSEPH

Children of the Longhouse

Ohkwa'ri seeks to keep the peace and follow the rules, so when he overhears Grabber and his friends talk of an upcoming raid on a nearby village, he tells the Mohawk elders and stops it. But now, Grabber seeks revenge against Ohkwa'ri for ratting him out. As the two compete in the village-wide game of Tekwaarathon (lacrosse), Ohkwa'ri's belief in peace is put to the test.

RL: 5.5 | Native American | 1400s | America

1500s

DE WOHL, LOUIS

Saint Joan: The Girl Soldier

The story of how St. Joan of Arc was told by St. Michael, St. Catherine, and St. Margaret to lead her country into battle and how she persevered in faith through war, betrayal, imprisonment, and martyrdom.

RL: 6.0 | Religious Faith | 1500s | France | Catholic Author

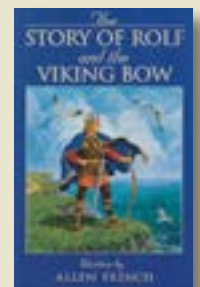
1600s

BRUCHAC, JOSEPH

Pocahontas

John Smith and his "Coatmen" begin settling the colony of Virginia, where the Powhatan Indians are unwelcoming. But Pocahontas, the daughter of the chief, offers hospitality and warmth, making a way for peace between the two people.

RL: 6.3 | Native American | 1600s | America: VA



DE TREVINO, ELIZABETH BORTON

Nacar the White Deer: A Story of Old Mexico

After losing his mother and his voice, Lalo is tasked with nursing to health a sick albino deer to be sent from Mexico to the King of Spain.

RL: 6.0 | Religious Faith | 1600s | Mexico

WALLACE, SR. M. IMELDA

Outlaws of Ravenhurst

When his uncle comes from Scotland and whisks him away as heir of Ravenhurst, George goes to claim his throne. But little does he know the history of persecution for Catholics in the kingdom nor the future persecution he faces upon his arrival.

RL: 5.0 | Religious Faith | 1600s | Scotland

1700s

HENRY, MARGUERITE

King of the Wind: The Story of the Godolphin Arabian

A fairy tale about an Arab stable boy's connection with the Sultan's horse, which is full of surprises and suspense.

RL: 5.4 | Animals | 1700s | Africa/England | Newbery Medal

SPEARE, ELIZABETH GEORGE

Calico Captive

On the brink of the French and Indian War, young Miriam Willard and her family are kidnapped by Native Americans when they raid her small New Hampshire town. They have no way of knowing if they will be killed, kept in slavery, or if they will even survive the dangerous march north. Inspired by the true story of Susanna Willard Johnson, whose family was taken captive by the Abenaki tribe in 1754.

RL: 6.0 | Captive Narrative | 1700s | America: NH

LENSKI, LOIS

Indian Captive: The Story of Mary Jemison

A biographical novel inspired by the true story of Mary Jemison, who was captured by the Seneca tribe in 1758. Mary is introduced to the Seneca way of life and learns about plants, animals, and the skills needed to live in the Seneca village.

RL: 5.4 | Captive Narrative | 1700s | America: PA | Newbery Honor

RICHTER, CONRAD

The Light in the Forest

John Butler was captured by Native Americans when he was four years old, and fully assimilated into the Lenni Lenape tribe in which he grew up. At fifteen years old, a peace treaty between his tribe and the British means he will be returned to his birth family. But how will he assimilate into British society? And will he want to?

RL: 5.5 | Captive Narrative | 1700s | America: PA

LATHAM, JEAN

Carry On Mr. Bowditch

A biographical novel about Nathaniel Bowditch, a mathematical genius who dreamed of being a sailor. Despite being considered too small to be a sailor, Nat's gifts and determination led him to change navigation and sea-faring forever.

RL: 4.1 | Exploration | 1700s | America: PA | Protestant Author | Newbery Medal

CAUDILL, REBECCA

Tree of Freedom

A pioneer family moves to Kentucky during the Revolutionary War, and are determined to hold fast to their love of nature and learning, no matter the hardships they face.

RL: 6.1 | Family life | 1700s | America: KY | Newbery Honor

BRADLEY, KIMBERLY BRUBAKER

The Lacemaker and the Princess

Eleven-year-old Isabelle is a lacemaker living near the palace of Versailles, who is thrown into a life of luxury when she befriends Marie Antoinette's daughter Princess Thérèse. But the relationship between the peasant and the princess becomes complicated as unrest in the country finds its way to their doors.

RL: 4.3 | Family Life | 1700s | France

HENRY, MARGUERITE

Justin Morgan Had a Horse

An unusual work horse raised in Vermont and known originally as "Little Bub" becomes the sire of a famous American breed and takes the name of his owner, Justin Morgan.

RL: 5.8 | Frontier | 1700s | America: VT | Newbery Honor

DALGLIESH, ALICE

The Courage of Sarah Noble

A charming and brave eight-year-old girl accompanies her father into the wilderness of Connecticut in 1707 to cook for him while he builds a new home for his family.

RL: 3.9 | Frontier | 1700s | America: CT | Newbery Honor

SPEARE, ELIZABETH GEORGE

The Sign of the Beaver

A boy in Maine, rescued by an Indian chief and his grandson, must decide whether to spend the winter alone in the woods waiting for his family or move on to a new life with his new friends.

RL: 4.9 | Frontier | 1700s | America: ME | Newbery Honor



EDMONDS, WALTER

The Matchlock Gun

In 1756, during the French and Indian War in upper New York state, ten-year-old Edward is determined to protect his home and family with the ancient, and much too heavy, Spanish gun that his father had given him before leaving home to fight the enemy.

RL: 5.1 | Frontier | 1700s | America: NY | Newbery Medal

STEELE, WILLIAM O.

The Buffalo Knife

In 1782, nine-year-old Andy, his family, and neighbors make a dangerous journey by flatboat down a thousand miles of the Tennessee River to make a new home.

RL: 5.1 | Frontier | 1700s | America

YATES, ELIZABETH

Sarah Whitcher's Story

This is the story of the search for and adventures of a young girl lost in a New Hampshire forest in the pioneer days. It is based on a true incident.

RL: 5.3 | Frontier | 1700s | America: NH

HIGGINS, JOANNA

Waiting for the Queen: A Novel of Early America

Fifteen-year-old Eugenie and her family are forced to come to America with other French aristocrats, building a new French Azilum in the Pennsylvania wilderness. Quaker girl Hannah is assigned to work for Eugenie's family but refuses to bow down to some notion of nobility that makes no sense to her. As the girls get to know each other, they realize they have more in common than they think, most importantly, an unwillingness to watch slavery continue in front of their eyes.

RL: 4.1 | Frontier | 1700s | America: PA

FRITZ, JEAN

The Cabin Faced West

When Ann Hamilton's family moves to the western frontier of Pennsylvania, Ann misses everything about her old life in Gettysburg. But as she meets people, weathers storms, and receives a special visit from George Washington, she discovers the beauty and adventure in her new world.

RL: 5.1 | Frontier | 1700s | America: PA

BRADLEY, KIMBERLY BRUBAKER

Weaver's Daughter

With a farmer father and a weaver mother, Lizzie enjoys hard work and simple pleasures in the Southwest Territory (now Tennessee). But every fall, Lizzie suffers from an unknown illness that is cured when the frost disappears. Despite the winter's distractions in the form of rich neighbors with a handsome stepson, Lizzie fears she may never recover this time, leading her to face important truths about life and death.

RL: 4.0 | Frontier | 1700s | America: TN

THOMASMA, KENNETH

Om-Kas-Toe: Blackfeet Twin Captures an Elkdog

When twins discover a horse—or elkdog as they call it—and bring it back to their tribe, it forever changes the way of life for the Blackfeet people.

RL: 4.8 | Native American | 1700s | America



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WHELAN, GLORIA

The Hedge School

In Ireland in 1735, three Irish friends fight against the English rule in the nation that keeps them from an education and their Catholic faith.

RL: 5.5 | Religious Faith | 1700s | Ireland

DURRANT, LYNDIA

The Sun, the Rain, and the Appleseed: A Novel of Johnny Appleseed's Life

When John Chapman was nine, his father planted apple seeds around their small property, which soon bore fruit to feed the entire family. Years later, John—nicknamed Johnny Appleseed—travels through the American West spreading seeds on a mission to feed the hungry.

RL: 5.0 | Religious Faith | 1700s | America

COLLIER, JAMES LINCOLN

My Brother Sam is Dead

(*Brother Sam: Book 1*)

When Tim's brother Sam joins the American Revolution, Tim must decide between his loyalties to his town and father, who support the British, and his big brother.

RL: 4.9 | Revolutionary War | 1700s | America: CT | Newbery Honor

GRIFFIN, JUDITH BERRY

Phoebe the Spy

To save George Washington's life, Phoebe is hired as a "housekeeper" and spy. As rumors spread that an assassination attempt is near, she must discover who is plotting murder before it's too late.

RL: 4.3 | Revolutionary War | 1700s | America: NY

LAWSON, ROBERT

Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin By His Good Mouse Amos

This comical and witty tale recounts how Benjamin Franklin got his ideas for his many inventions—from his mouse.

RL: 6.9 | Revolutionary War | 1700s | America: PA

AVI

The Fighting Ground

Despite his father's refusal, thirteen-year-old Jonathan rushes to enlist as a soldier in the Revolutionary War when he hears the bell ring. But within twenty-four hours, his whole life changes.

RL: 4.2 | Revolutionary War | 1700s | America

BRADY, ESTHER WOOD

Toliver's Secret

When her grandfather is hurt during the Revolutionary War, ten-year-old Ellen crosses into enemy territory to deliver a loaf of bread—and a secret message—to the patriots.

RL: 4.7 | Revolutionary War | 1700s | America

O'DELL, SCOTT

Sarah Bishop

After Sarah's dad and brother die during the War of Independence, Sarah flees to avoid being arrested by the British and forges a new life in the wilderness.

RL: 4.9 | Revolutionary War | 1700s | America

PINKNEY, ANDREA DAVIS

Dear Benjamin Banneker

Benjamin Banneker, an African American scientist who opposes slavery, decides to do something about the injustice in America. He writes to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, who signed the Declaration of Independence and owns slaves. Surprisingly, Jefferson writes back.

RL: 6.4 | Slavery | 1700s | America: MD

CAMERON, ANN

The Kidnapped Prince: The Life of Olaudah Equiano

(Adapted from the autobiography of Olaudah Equiano)

In this autobiography that became a bestseller when published in 1789, Olaudah recounts being captured into slavery at eleven, working as a slave in England, America, and the West Indies, and finally earning his freedom.

RL: 5.7 | Slavery | 1700s | Africa/England

1800s

PREUS, MARGI

Heart of a Samuri

Fourteen-year-old Manjiro dreams of becoming a samurai, but this royal title is inherited and he is just a poor boy from a fishing village. In 1841, Manjiro's fishing boat is shipwrecked and he and his companions swim to a nearby island. He is soon picked up by an American whaling ship and brought to America, where he must learn new laws and customs. Based on the true story of Manjiro Nakahama, the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States, and includes illustrations by Nakahama.

RL: 5.4 | Exploration | 1800s | America: WA | Newbery Honor

SPYRI, JOHANNA

Heidi

Heidi, a young orphan, is brought to live with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps. Heidi builds a strong relationship with her grandfather, a bitter and reclusive old man, and desperately misses him and their mountain home when she is sent into town to attend school.

RL: 8.2 | Family Life | 1800s | Switzerland

COOLIDGE, SUSAN

What Katy Did

Katy is a quick-tempered, rough-and-tumble twelve-year-old who wants to be more like her cousin Helen, who is respectful, beautiful, and compassionate. When tragedy strikes, Katy gets a chance to prove to herself, and everyone else, that she can change.

RL: 7.2 | Family Life | 1800s | America | Protestant author



SIDNEY, MARGARET

Five Little Peppers and How They Grew

The widowed Mrs. Pepper is hardworking and cheerful, despite the poverty that she and her five children live in. The Peppers are rich in love and joy, which they share with the wealthy family who become their new friends.

RL: 7.9 | Family Life | 1800s | Africa

GIFF, PATRICIA REILLY

A Slip of a Girl

A novel-in-verse set during the Irish Land Wars, the story follows young Anna Mallon through a series of tragedies as she struggles to save her family in the aftermath of the Great Famine.

RL: 3.3 | Family Life | 1800s | Ireland

TAYLOR, DON ALONZO

Old Sam Dakota Trotter

Old Sam was a thoroughbred trotter on his way to the championship, when an injury left him lame. The Scott family inherits the horse that no one else wanted and bring him to their homestead in the Dakota Territory. Ten-year-old Johnny Scott and his younger brother, Lee, soon learn that Old Sam has some hidden talents that are both handy and hilarious. One thing is for sure, Old Sam makes Johnny and Lee's life way more exciting!

RL: 4.4 | Frontier | 1800s | America: ND

BRINK, CAROL RYRIE

Caddie Woodlawn

The adventures of a spirited and courageous eleven-year-old girl growing up on the Wisconsin frontier in the 1860s.

RL: 6.0 | Frontier | 1800s | America: WI | Newberry Medal

MACLACHLAN, PATRICIA

Sarah Plain and Tall

When Anna's father puts out an advertisement for a wife, Sarah Elisabeth Wheaton travels from Maine to the Midwest to become a stepmother to Anna and her brother Caleb. Anna and Caleb wonder what this new woman will be like, and if she will stay in their lives or leave.

RL: 3.4 | Frontier | 1800s | America | Newberry Medal

GREGORY, KRISTIANA

Jenny of the Tetons

Carrie Hill has a strong hatred for Indians, after she was orphaned in an Indian raid while traveling West on a wagon train. With nowhere else to go she agrees to go with an English trapper to help care for his family, only to learn that the trapper's wife, Jenny, is a Shoshoni Indian! As she witnesses Jenny's kind and loving care, Carrie learns powerful lessons about kindness and forgiveness.

RL: 4.8 | Frontier | 1800s | America: CO | Protestant author

GREGORY, KRISTIANA

Prairie River: A Journey of Faith (Prairie River Series: Book 1)

The orphanage has been the only home fourteen-year-old Nessa has ever known - and now she is forced to leave it. She hops a stagecoach and ends up in Prairie River, Kansas, a town in the middle of nowhere. All alone and looked at with suspicion by the townspeople, Nessa must learn how to live on the prairie, a task that will challenge her strength and her Christian faith.

RL: 5.5 | Frontier | 1800s | America: KS | Protestant author

GOBLE, PAUL

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses

Though she is fond of her people, a girl prefers to live among the wild horses where she is truly happy and free.

RL: 4.1 | Frontier | 1800s | America | Caldecott Medal

HOLM, JENNIFER L.

Our Only May Amelia

As the only girl in a Finnish-American family of seven brothers, May Amelia Jackson resents being expected to act like a lady while growing up in Washington state in 1899.

RL: 4.8 | Frontier | 1800s | America: WA | Newbery Honor

LAURGAARD, RACHEL

Patty Reed's Doll: The Story of the Donner Party

A wooden doll recalls the hope with which a group of pioneers begins their journey and the ordeals they face as they travel from Springfield, Illinois to California.

RL: 5.7 | Frontier | 1800s | America

BYARS, BETSY

Trouble River

When he builds his raft, a twelve-year-old boy never dreams that it will serve as the sole means of escape for him and his grandmother when hostile Indians threaten their prairie cabin. The plot contains racial slurs and negative stereotypes.

RL: 4.9 | Frontier | 1800s | America



COULOMBIS, AUDREY

Misadventures of Maude March, or Trouble Rides a Fast Horse

After the death of the stern aunt who raised them since they were orphaned, eleven-year-old Sallie and her fifteen-year-old sister escape their self-serving guardians and begin an adventure resembling those in the dime novels Sallie loves to read.

RL: 5.1 | Frontier | 1800s | America

RYAN, PAM MUNOZ

Riding Freedom

Charlotte (Charley) Parkhurst runs away from an orphanage, poses as a boy, moves to California, and fools everyone by her appearance.

RL: 4.5 | Frontier | 1800s | America: CA

YATES, ELIZABETH

The Journeyman

Jared, a journeyman painter, arrives at a New Hampshire farm and is excited to spruce up the farmhouse walls. But the farmers have had a hard year and blame him for their woes. Jared must rely on his faith in God to resist the accusations and endure the bitter winter.

RL: 6.1 | Frontier | 1800s | America: NH

O'DELL, SCOTT

Thunder Rolling in the Mountains

Chief Joseph's daughter, Sound of Running Feet, notices white settlers panning for gold on Nez Perce land and vows to fight. But the U.S. Army is ruthless as they seek to take Nez Perce land and move the people onto a reservation, causing Sound of Running Feet to question if the fight is worth it when the violence never ends.

RL: 4.6 | Frontier | 1800s | America: OR

DELL, PAMELA JAIN

Blood in the Water: A Story of Friendship during the Mexican War

The Mexican War rages over the territory of Texas, stealing away Bonita's brothers to fight. But little did she imagine that it might also take away her best friend, Carmen, a Spanish American at odds with Bonita and other patriotic Mexicans.

RL: 5.8 | Frontier | 1800s | America: TX

HOLM, JENNIFER L.

Boston Jane: An Adventure (Boston Jane Series)

Miss Jane Peck wants nothing more than to erase her childhood reputation and become a proper young lady. So when William Balldt proposes, she can't wait to start her new life with him in the Washington Territory. But her new life is not what she imagined, and she must blend her finishing-school etiquette with her pioneer strength if she wants to survive the tumultuous journey at sea, the surprising people she encounters, and the harsh frontier life that awaits her.

RL: 4.9 | Frontier | 1800s | America: WA

GIFF, PATRICIA REILLY

A House of Tailors

When Dina emigrates from Germany to America, the one silver lining is that she'll be able to abandon a lifetime of sewing in her family's dressmaking business. But without options for work, she finds herself working with a needle again—and homesick. As she endures an epidemic and a fire in Brooklyn, she learns her own bravery and begins to hope that the future she desires might be right where she is after all.

RL: 4.9 | Frontier | 1800s | Germany/America



YATES, ELIZABETH

Prudence Crandall: Woman of Courage

African American girls, at a time when segregation and discrimination were rampant in the United States. Based on a true story and partners with *The Education of Mary*.

RL: 7.0 | Modern | 1800s | America: CT

SEWELL, ANNA

Black Beauty

A classic novel, narrated by a horse named Black Beauty, follows his life from his early days as a colt through various owners and experiences.

RL: 7.7 | Modern | 1800s | America

FIELD, RACHEL

Hitty, Her First Hundred Years

The tale of a wooden doll named Hitty and her adventures over the course of a century.

RL: 7.1 | Modern | 1800s | America: ME | Newbery Medal | Protestant author

WEIL, ANN

Red Sails to Capri

When Michele spots the red sails heading his way, he knows adventure awaits. The three sailors stay on the island of Capri at Michele's parents' inn and search for beauty and adventure. Michele is enthralled by the mystery they seek—followed by the discovery of the Blue Grotto.

RL: 3.4 | Modern | 1800s | Italy | Newbery Honor

SAWYER, RUTH

Roller Skates

When ten-year-old Lucinda's parents travel to Italy, Lucinda stays behind with her teachers in their boarding house. Finally free from her restrictive parents, she's able to roll around New York City during the 1890s on her roller skates, meeting people from all walks of life.

RL: 6.3 | Modern | 1800s | America: NY | Newbery Medal

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HILL, KIRKPATRICK

Bo at Ballard Creek

Bo is on her way to an Alaskan orphanage when two goldminers adopt her as their own. Growing up in an Eskimo village, she learns to polka, to cook, and to speak Eskimo.

RL: 6.3 | Modern | 1800s | America: NY | Newbery Medal

KRENSKY, STEPHEN

The Iron Dragon Never Sleeps

Ten-year-old Winnie moves to California in 1867 for her father to help build the transcontinental railroad, where she encounters mainly adults and overhears negative things about the Chinese immigrants. But then Lee, a Chinese boy, befriends her, and she must unravel the truth from stereotypes.

RL: 3.2 | Modern | 1800s | America

RINALDI, ANN

The Education of Mary

Mary loves being tutored at Miss Prudence's exclusive private school while she works as a maid, even if it is a secret for her to learn from an all-white institution. But when the school starts formally admitting girls of color, the town grows outraged and both sides of the anti-slavery movement use the school as a pawn in their agendas.

RL: 4.4 | Modern | 1800s | America: CT

GIFF, PATRICIA REILLY

Water Street (*Nory Ryan Series: Book 3*)

As she watches the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge from her family's New York apartment, Bird worries about her future and her family's problems. When Thomas, another Irish immigrant, moves in upstairs, Bird finds hope in his friendship and the possibility of a favorable future.

RL: 4.8 | Modern | 1800s | America: NY

KULLING, MONICA

Mary Anning's Curiosity

In England in the early 1800s, Mary Anning searches for dinosaur fossils to support her family. Then one day, at age twelve, she discovers what she thinks is a gigantic crocodile but is actually what is later termed an ichthyosaurus. It takes Mary a year to fully uncover her discovery, the first complete dinosaur fossil of its kind, which begins her career and her many contributions to paleontology and our understanding of prehistoric creatures.

RL: 5.2 | Modern | 1800s | England

O'DELL, SCOTT

Streams to the River, River to the Sea

After being kidnapped and forced to marry a French trapper, Sacajawea serves as an interpreter of the Shoshone language and guide of the land for Lewis and Clark as they explore the Northwest, all while carrying her infant son on her back.

RL: 4.8 | Native American | 1800s | America

BRUCHAC, JOSEPH

Sacajawea

Alternating between Sacajawea's account and Lewis Clark's, even including segments from Clark's diaries, the story of Lewis and Clark's Expedition to the Northwest unfolds.

RL: 4.8 | Native American | 1800s | America

THOMASMA, KENNETH

Naya Nuki: Shoshoni Girl Who Ran

Eleven-year-old Naya Nuki is taken captive by a rival Indian tribe. But she is determined to return to her Shoshone tribe, even embarking on a thousand-mile journey to return home.

RL: 5.6 | Native American | 1800s | America

THOMASMA, KENNETH

Doe Sia: Bannock Girl and the Handcart Pioneers

Emma, a Mormon traveling to Salt Lake City as part of the "Handcart Pioneers", makes fast friends with Sia, a young Bannock girl known for her bravery. When the two get caught in a mountain snowstorm, Sia must help Emma build a shelter, find food, and get back to her family.

RL: 4.6 | Native American | 1800s | America: UT

O'DELL, SCOTT

Island of the Blue Dolphins

(*Island of the Blue Dolphins: Book 1*)

Years ago, Karana was left behind on an isolated island off the coast of California called San Nicolas. It's a place full of wonder, with dolphins and shimmering blue waves. But it's not all beauty and relaxation, especially in isolation, as she battles the pack of wild dogs, the otter hunters, and the constant lack of food.

RL: 5.4 | Native American/Survival | 1800s | America: CA | Newbery Medal

RUSSELL FREEDMAN

Lincoln: A Photobiography

Filled with photographs and text, the story of Abraham Lincoln unfolds, from his boyhood in the country to his assassination and everything in between. Lincoln's wit and humor are evident as he spends his days as a lawyer, courts Mary Todd, and grapples with the country's divisions during the Civil War.

RL: 7.7 | Non-Fiction | 1800s | America: CA

WEATHERFORD, CAROLE BOSTON

Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom

In a story told through stanzas of six lines, Henry Brown, born into slavery, ships himself to freedom—and hope—through the Underground Railroad after his wife and children are sold and taken far from him.

RL: 5.3 | Non-Fiction | 1800s | Newbery Honor

YATES, ELIZABETH

Amos Fortune, Free Man

Amos Fortune was sold into slavery at age fifteen and has spent his life accepting his fate. But at age sixty, he has the opportunity to escape—if he has the strength and courage to do so.

RL: 6.5 | Non-Fiction | 1800s | Newbery Medal

SPENCE, ELEANOR

The Switherby Pilgrims

Concerned about the future of the children in a grim factory town in England, Miss Arabella moves with her ten orphan children to Australia to take advantage of a land grant.

RL: 7.6 | Orphan Story | 1800s | Australia

NIXON, JOAN LOWERY

A Family Apart (*Orphan Train Adventure Series: Book 1*)

After her mother sends her and her siblings on an Orphan Train, Frances is heartbroken. But when she finds out she'll soon be separated from her siblings as well, she decides to do something about it. Frances pretends to be a boy and puts herself in danger to save her family.

RL: 5.4 | Orphan Story | 1800s | America

GIFF, PATRICIA REILLY

Nory Ryan's Song

When the potato crop fails to produce an edible harvest in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory must summon the courage to help her family survive.

RL: 4.3 | Potato Famine | 1800s | Ireland

DURRANT, LYNDA

Imperfections

To escape their drunken father and the war between the Union and the Confederacy, Rosemary Elizabeth and her siblings join a Shaker community. She vows to be the perfect Shaker girl despite the strict rules to protect her family and survive. But the longer she stays, the more she questions the Shaker ways, like why she can't see her Ma or siblings, how their thoughts collide with hers, and what kind of future she might have.

RL: 4.8 | Religious Faith | 1800s | America: KY

CURTIS, CHRISTOPHER PAUL

Elijah of Buxton

Elijah is the first freeborn child in a haven for slaves in Canada. But when someone steals from his friend, he takes off in pursuit of the thief, coming head-to-head with the world of slavery his parents left behind.

RL: 5.4 | Slavery | 1800s | Canada | Newbery Honor

ROBINET, HARRIET GILLEM

Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule

During Reconstruction two recently-freed brothers enjoy their freedom and have plenty to eat on a cotton farm. But when the night riders threaten to take away what they have, they risk losing their freedom all over again.

RL: 4.3 | Slavery | 1800s | America | Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction

PAULSEN, GARY

Nightjohn (*Sarny: Book 1*)

Sarny, a slave in the South, believes that the North and its freedom must be things of legend. But then she meets John, who has scars and stories and the ability to read. He tells her how he learned in the North and got caught again on purpose to share his new knowledge, which he believes is the key to freedom for all. The plot contains violence and sexual situations. Themes include racism.

RL: 3.8 | Slavery | 1800s | America

DE ANGELI, MARGUERITE

Thee, Hannah

Hannah, a Quaker girl living in pre-Civil War Philadelphia, enjoys ice skating and hosting friends, but she longs to wear something other than her plain clothing, like her friends do. Then one day, her outfit is the very thing that signifies she is trustworthy to a runaway slave, allowing her to help—and ultimately forcing her to take a hard look at the traditions of her faith.

RL: 4.8 | Slavery | 1800s | America

PEARSALL, SHELLEY

Trouble Don't Last

Born into slavery, eleven-year-old Samuel knows nothing else. But then one night, he is awakened by former slave Harrison, who leads him on a journey north through the Underground Railroad which is both terrifying and revealing.

RL: 4.8 | Slavery | 1800s | America

HAISLIP, PHYLLIS HALL

Lottie's Courage: A Contraband Slave's Story

Upon the death of her master, Lottie is sold to a new, cruel master and separated from her mother. With the help of an older slave named Weza, Lottie escapes and ends up rescued by Union soldiers as contraband. Desperate to be reunited with her mother, Lottie must trust those around her as she builds a new life on Fortress Monroe and awaits the end of the Civil War.

RL: 5.0 | Slavery | 1800s | America



REEDER, CAROLYN

Shades of Gray

Twelve-year-old Will lost his whole family in the Civil War, and now he is torn from his home to live with his aunt and uncle on a farm with little food. Worse, his uncle refused to fight for the Confederacy, which makes him partially to blame for the Yankees killing his family. But as Will helps on the farm, he begins to see his uncle's actions as courageous and honorable—and he questions his own views on the war.

RL: 5.3 | US Civil War | 1800s | America: VA | Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction

BEATY, PATRICIA

Charley Skedaddle

All Charley wants is to be a soldier like his fallen brother, who died in the Battle of Gettysburg, so he leaves his gang life and joins the army. But after shooting a Rebel soldier, Charley flees and keeps running until he meets Granny Bent, who has a few things to teach him about maturity and respect.



RL: 5.2 | US Civil War | 1800s | America | Scott O'Dell Award

POLACCO, PATRICIA

Pink and Say

A picture book about how a Black soldier rescues a white soldier during the Civil War. Story contains violence. Themes include racism.

RL: 3.8 | US Civil War | 1800s | America

REEDER, CAROLYN

Captain Kate

When Kate's stepfather goes to fight in the Civil War, she and her stepbrother take a journey down the C&O Canal with their canal boat to deliver coal.

RL: 6.0 | US Civil War | 1800s | America

1900s

GODDEN, RUMER

The Kitchen Madonna

Marta, a Ukrainian housekeeper, is the heart of the home where quiet and reserved Gregory and his sister Janet live in London. But Marta is unhappy and Gregory and Janet are worried she'll go away and leave them. To help her feel more at home they go in search of a Ukrainian icon for her kitchen, where the lonely Gregory discovers the power of faith, creativity, and love.

RL: 5.4 | Family Life | 1900s | England

LOVELACE, MAUD HART

Betsy-Tacy

The adventures of five-year-old best friends Tacy Kelly and Betsy Ray range from the simple adventures of everyday life to the extraordinary adventures of their imaginations.

RL: 4.0 | Family Life | 1900s | America: MN

CLEAVER, VERA & BILL

Where the Lilies Bloom

A coming of age story in which fourteen-year-old Mary Call struggles to keep the promise she made to her dying father, that she would keep her siblings together in the Great Smoky Mountains. Mary must find courage and perseverance to keep her family together and alive through the cruel winter months.

RL: 5.2 | Family Life | 1900s | America: NC

RAWLS, WILSON

Where the Red Fern Grows

The story of Billy Coleman, a young boy in the Ozarks, and his two hound dogs who become the best hunting team in the county. Billy's grandfather supports them and offers Billy important lessons in growing up.

RL: 4.9 | Family Life | 1900s | America: OK

FITZGERALD, JOHN

The Great Brain

Tom, aka the Great Brain, is the best con man in the Midwest. And he's only ten years old! Whether he's saving kids from school or helping out the new kid, the Great Brain is always willing to help— as long as he gets paid.

RL: 5.2 | Family Life | 1900s | America: UT

PATERSON, KATHERINE

Jacob Have I Loved

A tale of sibling rivalry set during World War II, Louise has always felt deprived living in the shadow of her twin sister Caroline. But as she grows up on a fishing island off the coast of Maryland, Louise learns she must forge her own path and identity.

RL: 5.7 | Family Life | 1900s | America | Newbery Medal | Protestant author

CARLSON, NATALIE SAVAGE

The Family Under the Bridge

Armand is happy with his life living on the streets of Paris. But when he finds three children and their mother at his home under the bridge he knows he must do whatever he can to get this family a home.

RL: 4.7 | Family Life | 1900s | France | Newbery Honor

FRITZ, JEAN

Homesick: My Own Story

A fictionalized autobiography of a young American girl growing up in China during a time of political unrest. As a daughter of American missionaries, Jean dreams of the day her family will move back home to America, but when they do she learns that her idea of "home" is different than she thought.

RL: 5.1 | Family Life | 1900s | China | Newbery Honor



KRUMGOLD, JOSEPH

...And Now Miguel

Twelve-year-old Miguel Chavez is tired of being treated like a child, and dreams of going with the men on the sheep drive to the mountains of New Mexico. He prays to St. Ysidro, the patron saint of farmers, that he would be able to go with the men this year. Miguel's prayer is answered, but it comes with unintended consequences.

RL: 4.8 | Family Life | 1900s | America: NM | Newbery Medal

SORENSEN, VIRGINIA

Miracles on Maple Hill

Marly's father returns from being a prisoner of war in World War II, and her family moves from the city to the countryside to help him mentally recover. At Maple Hill Farm the family shares many adventures that heal and strengthen their family bond.

RL: 4.8 | Family Life | 1900s | America: NM | Newbery Medal

WOJCIECHOWSKA, MAIA

Shadow of a Bull

Manolo hates bullfighting and dreams of being a doctor, but he feels pressured to follow in the footsteps of his famous bullfighting father. Will he have the courage to follow his dreams, even if it means disappointing everyone he loves?

RL: 5.2 | Family Life | 1900s | Spain | Newbery Medal

NAIDOO, BEVERLEY

Journey to Jo'burg: A South African Story

Separated from their mother by economic conditions, a black brother and sister must journey through apartheid-era South Africa to reach their mother after their younger sister becomes ill.

RL: 4.6 | Family Life | 1900s | Africa

HILL, KIRKPATRICK

The Year of Miss Agnes

Ten-year-old Fred (short for Frederika) lives in rural Alaska in 1948, and doesn't have much hope that the new teacher, Miss Agnes, will last long. Where she lives, teachers rarely do. But Miss Agnes surprises the students, and they surprise themselves by actually enjoying their lessons. But will how long will Miss Agnes last in the remote and rugged Alaskan wilderness?

RL: 4.5 | Family Life | 1900s | America: AK

CURTIS, CHRISTOPHER PAUL

The Watsons go to Birmingham—1963

The Watsons are a middle-class black family from Flint, Michigan who go on a road trip in the Deep South to their grandmother's house in Birmingham, Alabama. Once there they are caught up in a tragic event in the fight for Civil Rights. A moving story that highlights the power of familial love and the painful effects of racism.

RL: 5.0 | Family Life | 1900s | America: AL

ESTES, ELEANOR

The Moffats

(The Moffats Series: Book 1)

Even an ordinary day is packed with extraordinary fun for the four Moffat children. Though poor, their family is rich in love, fun, and mischief! Each chapter in the book contains a different adventure that one of the siblings gets into.

RL: 5.2 | Family Life | 1900s | America: CT

BRADLEY, KIMBERLY BRUBAKER

Ruthie's Gift

Just before the beginning of World War I, eight-year-old Ruthie, who lives with her parents and six brothers on a farm in Indiana, wishes for a sister and tries to behave like the lady her mother wants her to be.

RL: 3.5 | Family Life | 1900s | America: IN

TATE, ELEANORA E.

Celeste's Harlem Renaissance

In 1921, thirteen-year-old Celeste leaves North Carolina to stay with her glamorous Aunt Valentina in Harlem, where she discovers the vibrant Harlem Renaissance in full swing. But her aunt's life is not exactly what she was led to believe.

RL: 4.7 | Family Life | 1900s | America: NY

MORPURGO, MICHAEL

The Wreck of the Zanzibar

A story of a young girl and her family living on one of the southern British Isles in the early 1900s. Told through journal entries and watercolor illustrations, the family's life is primarily determined by the natural elements and the unpredictable sea.

RL: 4.1 | Family Life | 1900s | England

MOREY, WALT

Year of the Black Pony

A boy growing up in the Oregon country in the early 1900s learns to trust again after he experiences the death of his alcoholic father, the remarriage of his mother, and his ultimate dream of owning a wild black pony.

RL: 4.4 | Frontier | 1900s | America: OR

MCNEELY, MARIAN HURD

The Jumping Off Place

In the early 1900s, as four young homesteaders in Tripp County, South Dakota work hard to prepare for the coming winter, they face drought, discomfort, and sabotaging squatters but find new friends and inner strength to carry on.

RL: 5.8 | Frontier | 1900s | America: SD



MOODY, RALPH

Little Britches: Father and I were Ranchers*(Little Britches Series: Book 1)*

This book begins the story of Ralph Moody, who was eight years old in 1906 when his family moved from New Hampshire to a Colorado ranch. Experience the pleasures and perils of ranching in the early twentieth century.

RL: 5.3 | Frontier | 1900s | America: CO

LENSKI, LOIS

Prairie School

In South Dakota during a terrible blizzard, Delores gets stranded at school. She and Miss Martin boil snow for drinking water and try to navigate the fuel shortage, but then Delores falls ill. She must find a way to make it to the doctor through all the snow if she hopes to survive.

RL: 4.0 | Frontier | 1900s | America: SD

GATES, DORIS

Blue Willow

With her father's job as an itinerant worker during the Great Depression, Janey Larkin's family follows the crops from place to place. But Janey has a dream of living in a community with real friends and an actual house. She clings to a blue willow plate, a reminder of a past she can barely remember and a home she longs for.

RL: 6.5 | Great Depression | 1900s | America: CA | Newbery Honor

ENRIGHT, ELIZABETH

Thimble Summer

When nine-year-old Garnet finds a silver thimble by the river, she's convinced it's magical. The drought ends, her family welcomes a new member, and her pig wins a blue ribbon at the fair.

RL: 5.7 | Great Depression | 1900s | America: WI | Newbery Medal



CURTIS, CHRISTOPHER PAUL

Bud, not Buddy

With only a suitcase and a flyer, ten-year-old Buddy escapes his cruel foster family and sets off in search of the father he's never known. Certain the advertisement his mother left behind for Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression, was meant to be a clue, Buddy won't let anything stop him—not even being an orphaned homeless boy in the Great Depression.

RL: 5.0 | Great Depression | 1900s | America: MI | Newbery Medal

GIFF, PATRICIA REILLY

R My Name is Rachel

Rachel is a bookworm from the city, but her family moves to a farm as times get tough. When Rachel's father takes a job far away near Canada, she must care for her siblings on their run-down farm during the Great Depression.

RL: 3.7 | Great Depression | 1900s | America

FUSCO, KIMBERLY NEWTON

The Wonder of Charlie Anne

Charlie Anne is left on the farm with her strict cousin and a never-ending list of farm chores while her father finds work in the north. Then she meets her new neighbor, Phoebe, a black girl who has also lost her mother, and finds hope in their friendship. But when the town's hatred threatens to destroy what they have, the pair must prove that friendship can survive prejudice.

RL: 4.7 | Great Depression | 1900s | America: MA

DELL, PAMELA JAIN

The Gold Coin: A Story of New York's Lower East Side and Its Immigrants

After fleeing Russia, Dimitri and his family navigate New York City's Lower East Side in the early 1900s, testing their faith and family devotion.

RL: 5.2 | Immigrants | 1900s | America: NY

LORD, BETTE BAO

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson

Shirley Temple Wong feels out of place in her new home in Brooklyn until she discovers Jackie Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers. As Jackie Robinson shatters records and cultural norms, Shirley bonds with her class over their shared love of the home team, leading her to discover that America may truly be a land where anything is possible.

RL: 4.6 | Immigrants | 1900s | America: NY

RYAN, PAM MUNOZ

Esperanza Rising

Esperanza lives a comfortable life on a Mexican ranch, with servants and beautiful dresses. But when tragedy forces her and her mom to seek work as Mexican farm workers in California during the Great Depression, Esperanza must embrace her new life of hard work to save her family.

RL: 5.3 | Immigrants | 1900s | Mexico/America

HENRY, MARGUERITE

Misty of Chincoteague

This story tells of a breed of wild horses that inhabit an island, and one special wild mare named Misty, her relationship with two young children, and her journey to become domesticated.

RL: 5.3 | Modern | 1900s | America: NC | Newbery Honor

PATERSON, KATHERINE

Bread and Roses, Too

The story follows the lives of Rosa Serutti, an Italian immigrant girl, and Jake Beale, a young American boy, as they navigate the challenges of working-class life during a time of labor unrest.

RL: 4.9 | Modern | 1900s | America: MA | Protestant author



SELZNICK, BRIAN

The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Hugo, an orphan, lives in the walls of a Paris train station and repairs clocks, relying on remaining secretive to survive. But when he meets an eccentric girl and her toy-selling godfather, his hidden life is at stake.

RL: 5.1 | Modern | 1900s | France | Caldecott Medal

SEREDY, KATE

The Good Master

(*Kate and Jancsi: Book 1*)

At first, Jancsi is thrilled his cousin is coming from Budapest to stay at his ranch for the summer, but when she arrives, he's instantly repelled by her spoiled behavior. But as the two of them do farm chores and spend long summer days together, Jancsi finds himself enjoying their adventures, just as Kate mends her ways and finds the beauty in country living.

RL: 4.4 | Modern | 1900s | Hungary | Newbery Honor

ESTES, ELEANOR

The Hundred Dresses

All the girls in school fawn over new dresses, so Wanda, a Polish girl, claims she has one hundred dresses at home. But when she disappears from school, her classmate Maddie starts to regret standing by as Wanda was bullied.

RL: 5.4 | Modern | 1900s | America: CT | Newbery Honor

RANKIN, LOUISE

Daughter of the Mountains

Momo has always longed for a Lhasa terrier and is utterly delighted when she finally gets one, named Pempa. But when a band of robbers steals Pempa, Momo sets out on the dangerous Great Trade Route through the mountains to retrieve him.

RL: 6.1 | Modern | 1900s | Tibet/India | Newbery Honor

LEWIS, ELIZABETH

Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze

In the 1920s, Young Fu leaves the country for the big city of Chungking with his widowed mother, leading to adventure and opportunity unlike that which he's known before.

RL: 6.4 | Modern | 1900s | China | Newbery Medal

LENSKI, LOIS

Strawberry Girl

Birdie dreams of fresh strawberries. But when her family moves to Florida, she must struggle through the heat, droughts, and neighbors without fences to grow her favorite fruit.

RL: 4.8 | Modern | 1900s | America: FL | Newbery Medal

CLARK, ANN NOLAN

Secret of the Andes

Cusi tends llamas in a hidden valley in the Andes mountains but longs for a family. When he discovers his Incan heritage, he must choose between living the family life he wants and preserving the secrets and traditions of his Incan ancestors.

RL: 4.7 | Modern | 1900s | South America | Newbery Medal

CLINE-RANSOME, LESA

Finding Langston (*The Finding Langston Trilogy: Book 1*)

When Langston's family moves from Alabama to Chicago in 1946 after his mom dies, he misses everything about his old country home. But then he discovers a library open to everyone—something unheard of in Alabama—and books by another man named Langston whose poetry moved his mother enough to inspire her to give her son his name.

RL: 4.5 | Modern | 1900s | America: IL | Scott O'Dell Award

ELLIS, DEBORAH

The Breadwinner

(*Breadwinner Series: Book 1*)

Living in Afghanistan under Taliban rule in the late 1990s, eleven-year-old Parvana is restricted to her one-room apartment. But when her father is arrested and her family has no way to find food or money, she must disguise herself as a boy and become her family's breadwinner.

RL: 4.5 | Modern | 1900s | Afghanistan

BRADLEY, KIMBERLY BRUBAKER

The President's Daughter

When Ethel's father, Theodore Roosevelt, becomes president in 1901, Ethel moves into the White House. But she isn't with her family much, as she spends the weekdays at boarding school, where she doesn't fit in. Then her older sister comes back into town, handing her the secret to win friendships—if she dares.



RL: 3.9 | Modern | 1900s | America

GARDINER, JOHN REYNOLDS

Stone Fox

Little Willy enters the National Dogsled Race to save his grandfather's Wyoming farm, but must face experienced racers—including an undefeated Native American man named Stone Fox.

RL: 4.0 | Modern | 1900s | America

SORENSEN, VIRGINIA

Plain Girl

Esther, an Amish girl, must attend public school, where she fears sticking out with her plain clothing and different beliefs. But as she learns about the world outside of her community, she finds herself questioning her beliefs and fearing a whole new concept—agreeing with this new world and her brother who left.

RL: 4.8 | Modern | 1900s | America

DELL, PAMELA JAIN

Gavilan: A Story of Hollywood During the McCarthy Era

When Ben's family moves to Hollywood for his father's acting career, his father is accused of being a Communist and blacklisted. Ben must stand up for what he believes in as he faces discrimination and hatred.

RL: 5.5 | Modern | 1900s | America: CA

DELL, PAMELA JAIN

A Song for Sung Li: A Story about the San Francisco Earthquake

After Sung Li is sent to San Francisco to live with her aunt, she finds a locket with an address and a photograph. But her aunt keeps her confined to the house. When an earthquake sets her free, she seeks out the address—and a better life.

RL: 5.5 | Modern | 1900s | America: CA

AVI

The Secret School

(*The Secret School: Book 1*)

Ida dreams of becoming a teacher, which requires her to finish eighth grade, then high school. So when her one-room school in remote Colorado shuts down and they can't find a teacher, Ida decides to take matters into her own hands and take over the class.

RL: 3.6 | Modern | 1900s | America: GA

MONTGOMERY, LUCY MAUDE

Anne of Green Gables

(*Anne of Green Gables: Book 1*)

Eleven-year-old Anne, an orphan, is sent to live with the Cuthberts on Prince Edward Island, but she soon discovers they wanted a boy. Before they send her back, she wins them over with her charm and imagination.

RL: 7.3 | Orphan Story | 1900s | Canada



BUNTING, EVE

The Cart That Carried Martin

In a cart painted green with two mules hitched to it, the body of Martin Luther King, Jr., is processed through Atlanta from Ebenezer Baptist Church to Morehouse College as tens of thousands of people show up to respect and celebrate the life of this great leader.

RL: 4.1 | Modern | 1900s | America: CO

SALISBURY, GRAHAM

Night of the Howling Dogs

When Dylan's Boy Scout troop goes camping underneath the volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii, everything is great except for an older boy named Louie who doesn't get along with Dylan. But then an earthquake strikes, followed by a tsunami, and the pair must band together to lead their troop to safety and survival.

RL: 3.5 | Modern | 1900s | America: HI

HAWKINS, AARON

The Year Money Grew On Trees

Thirteen-year-old Jackson wants to earn money, but he wants to avoid the dull summer job his father has lined up for him. So, he enlists his cousins and siblings in the task of tending their elderly neighbor's apple orchard. But when their contract turns out to be unfair, he must face frostbite and backbiting labor to come out ahead—and maybe even earn the orchard itself.

RL: 5.2 | Modern | 1900s | America: NM

DUBLE, KATHLEEN BENNER

The Story of the Samson

Sam enjoys hearing tales of the Samson from his grandfather, who once sailed upon the ship. From stories of seal hunting in the arctic to witnessing the Titanic sinking, to rescuing Shackleton's men, each account is rich in historical significance and adventure.

RL: 3.9 | Modern | 1900s | Antarctica

IBBOTSON, EVA

Journey to the River Sea

When Maia is sent to live on a rubber plantation in Brazil, she looks forward to experiencing the wilderness of the Amazon and a welcoming family. But instead, she finds cold relatives and a warning to stay inside. It's not until Maia meets Finn and embarks on a canoe ride down the Amazon that her adventure really begins.

RL: 5.6 | Modern | 1900s | Brazil

WHELAN, GLORIA

Angel on the Square

(*Russian Saga: Book 1*)

Katya lives in the palace in Russia at the dawn of World War I. While her life is seemingly unchanged, the life of her orphaned revolutionary friend Misha changes drastically, leading Katya to wrestle with the differences in the caste system and the internal struggle within her beloved country.

RL: 5.6 | Modern | 1900s | Russia

THOMASMA, KENNETH

Amee-Nah: Zuni Boy Runs the Race of His Life

Amee-Nah received his name, meaning "lazy," because he was born with a clubfoot. But when he finds a doctor to fix it, he works hard to build up strength in his legs and even starts running. Only a few months after the surgery, the annual stick race takes place, where Amee-Nah is chosen to take his friend's place in the race of his life.

RL: 4.3 | Native American | 1900s | America: NM

COERR, ELEANOR

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

Years after the atomic bomb went off in Hiroshima, Sadako falls ill with leukemia. She must say goodbye to her school's running team and trade her racing days for a race against time. She holds onto hope and endures her suffering with courage as she strives to make one thousand paper cranes in an attempt to earn healing according to legend.

RL: 4.1 | Non-Fiction | 1900s | Japan

BURNETT, FRANCES HODGSON

The Secret Garden

Sent to live with her uncle in a mysterious estate, Mary discovers a secret garden. With the help of her sick cousin, she restores the garden—which may just restore health to the whole house.

RL: 5.3 | Orphan Story | 1900s | England

WHELAN, GLORIA

Listening for Lions

After her missionary parents die of the flu epidemic, thirteen-year-old Rachel is orphaned in Africa, the place she calls home. But she is soon sent to England by her malicious neighbors as part of a criminal scheme, and she must be as patient and strong as a lion while she waits to take back her own fate.

RL: 5.7 | Orphan Story | 1900s | Africa/England

PORTER, ELEANOR H.

Pollyanna

When Pollyanna's father dies, she is sent to live with her stern aunt. But Pollyanna's optimistic attitude and "Just Be Glad" game give her the strength to not only persevere through her new trials but change the people around her.

RL: 5.2 | Orphan Story | 1900s | America

CANFIELD, DOROTHY

Understood Betsy

Ever since she was little, Betsy has heard her aunt and guardian refer to her cousins as horrid. But when her aunt can no longer care for her, she's sent to live with them in the country. Expected to do chores and welcome pets inside the house, Betsy is dismayed, but as the year goes on, she finds the new lifestyle changing her perspective.

RL: 5.9 | Orphan Story | 1900s | America

WIGGIN, EVE DOUGLAS SMITH

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm

As ten-year-old Rebecca goes to live with her aunts on their farm, she is welcomed by one and criticized by the other. But as she receives a proper education over the next seven years, she brings sunshine and light to all those around her.

RL: 8.1 | Orphan Story | 1900s | America

ETS, MARIE HALL AUTHOR & ILL. LABASTIDA, AURORA CO-AUTHOR

Nine Days to Christmas: A Story of Mexico

Ceci is overjoyed for her first Las Posadas, nine days of celebration leading up to Christmas, complete with a candlelight procession and her very own piñata.

RL: 3.8 | Religious Faith | 1900s | Mexico | Caldecott Medal

TAYLOR, SYDNEY

All-of-a-Kind Family
(*All-of-a-Kind-Family: Book 1*)

Living in New York's Lower East Side in the early 1900s, five sisters entertain each other and create their own adventures as they celebrate Jewish holidays and traditions.

RL: 4.9 | Religious Faith | 1900s | America: NY | Caldecott Medal

GEORGE, JEAN CRAIGHEAD

My Side of the Mountain (*My Side of the Mountain Trilogy: Book 1*)

Determined to escape his miserable life in New York City, Sam Gribble runs away to the Catskill Mountains and relies on a pocketful of belongings and his wits to survive.

RL: 5.2 | Survival | 1900s | America: NY | Newbery Honor

SHAHAN, SHERRY

Frozen Stiff

Cousins Cody and Derek think they are on an adventure toward freedom, enjoying an Alaskan kayaking and camping trip while their moms pick up supplies. But when Cody's kayak and life vest are washed away, the pair must survive flooding, icebergs, animals, and someone who might be following them.

RL: 4.8 | Survival | 1900s | America: AK

BUNTING, EVE

S.O.S. Titanic

As fifteen-year-old Irish immigrant Barry travels to America on the Titanic, he worries about the Flynn boys in steerage who have threatened to throw him overboard. But his troubles quickly escalate as the ship hits an iceberg and he is in the fight of his life.

RL: 4.5 | Titanic | 1900s | Atlantic Ocean

MORPURGO, MICHAEL

Kaspar the Titanic Cat

Johnny Trott is an orphan and a bellboy at a London hotel, where he befriends the Countess, who stays frequently with her cat, Kaspar. But when the Countess dies, Johnny adopts Kaspar, and the two embark on many adventures together—including traveling on the *Titanic*.

RL: 5.3 | Titanic | 1900s | Atlantic Ocean

SEREDY, KATE

The Singing Tree
(*Kate and Jancsi: Book 2*)

When Jancsi's father goes off to fight in World War I, Jancsi and his cousin Kate are left in charge of the family farm in Hungary.

RL: 5.0 | WWI | 1900s | Hungary | Newbery Honor



SAVERY, CONSTANCE

Enemy Brothers

When British airman Dym Ingleford meets a young German prisoner named Max who he believes to be his long-lost brother, Dym does all he can to convince him to stay and be part of his family. But Max resists, trying to escape, foil plans, and do anything but become attached to the Inglefords, who oppose the Nazi ideology he was raised to believe.

RL: 4.9 | WWII | 1900s | England

STOCKUM, HILDA VAN

The Winged Watchman

In an old windmill in Holland named the Winged Watchman lives the Verhagen family, who use their home as a place of resistance to the Nazis.

RL: 4.9 | WWII | 1900s | Holland

FISHER, CYRUS

The Avion My Uncle Flew

Johnny resists spending the summer in France instead of on his Wyoming ranch, but once he arrives, he soon discovers a German pistol; works on a mystery involving a Nazi ploy, a fugitive spy, and a stolen treasure; and builds an airplane with his uncle.

RL: 5.3 | WWII | 1900s | France | Newbery Honor

GIFF, PATRICIA REILLY

Lily's Crossing
(*Lily's Crossing: Book 1*)

Lily spends the summer at Rockaway Beach like every other summer, but this one is nothing like the ones before. Her mom has died, her dad went off to war, and her best friend moved away, leaving her with only her grandmother—until Albert, a Hungarian refugee, arrives. As they become friends, they share secrets and lies, though one of Lily's might very well cost Albert his life.

RL: 4.6 | WWII | 1900s | America: NY | Newbery Honor



LARSON, KIRBY

Growing Up with Aloha (*American Girl: Nanea Book 1*)

Nine-year-old Nanea is eager to contribute to the family by helping at her grandparents' market. But before she can prove her maturity, Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, and suddenly her life is turned upside down.

RL: 4.1 | WWII | 1900s | America: HI



LOWRY, LOIS

Number the Stars

When the Nazis start sending Jews in Denmark to death camps, ten-year-old Annemarie must be brave to help smuggle her best friend, Ellen, to safety in Sweden.

RL: 4.5 | WWII | 1900s | Denmark | Newbery Medal

FROST, HELEN

All He Knew

Henry is deaf and fearful of strangers, so he refuses to speak to them, which has labeled him unteachable. His family can't afford to help him during World War II, so they send him to Riverview, where he is harshly treated and misunderstood. But when a young attendant notices Henry's bravery and intelligence, he helps Henry discover hope.

RL: 4.7 | WWII | 1900s | America | Scott O'Dell Award

AVI

Who Was that Masked Man, Anyway?

While World War II preoccupies the world, sixth-grader Frankie obsesses over his radio dramas and believes there is a very real caper occurring in his own home.

RL: 2.7 | WWII | 1900s | America



FERRARI, MICHAEL

Born to Fly

Eleven-year-old Bird lives to fly airplanes and is thrilled when the local airstrip becomes a military flight school during World War II. Then comes Kenji, a Japanese boy new to school who steals a flight-related topic for a school project from her and has the whole school convinced he's a spy. But when Bird and Kenji discover real spy activity nearby, they team up to embark on a mission to discover what's going on.

RL: 4.3 | WWII | 1900s | America: RI

KOGAWA, JOY

Naomi's Road

Based on the novel *Obasan*, this story for young readers follows Naomi as she is separated from her parents and is moved to a Japanese-Canadian internment camp during World War II.

RL: 3.4 | WWII | 1900s | Canada

ACKERMAN, KAREN

The Night Crossing

Requiring great courage and strength, Clara and her Jewish family must flee their Austrian home and travel to Switzerland if they hope to survive the Nazi invasion.

RL: 5.3 | WWII | 1900s | Europe

BISHOP, CLAIRE HUCHET

Twenty and Ten

While the Germans occupy France during World War II, twenty French schoolchildren to take refuge in the mountains. But when ten Jewish children are brought to them for hiding, the French children must keep the Jewish kids' presence secret to keep everyone safe.

RL: 4.0 | WWII | 1900s | France



SHEMIN, MARGARETHA

The Little Riders

Johanna is staying with her grandparents in Holland while her parents are away, but she longs to return home to America. Then World War II breaks out, and she's more desperate than ever to return. It's only when a Dutch symbol of freedom, the little metal riders on the clock tower, is threatened that she feels she has a mission worth risking her life for.

RL: 5.4 | WWII | 1900s | Holland

WATKINS, YOKO KAWASHIMA

So Far from the Bamboo Grove (*So Far from the Bamboo Grove: Book 1*)

In this autobiography, Yoko shares her experience as a Japanese girl fleeing her beautiful home in Korea at the end of World War II to prevent retribution by Koreans angry with the Japanese.

RL: 4.7 | WWII | 1900s | Korea/Japan

MCSWIGAN, MARIE

Snow Treasure

When the Nazis land in Peter's Norwegian village, Peter and his friends attempt to smuggle the country's treasure past the guards by sled to fool the enemy.

RL: 5.3 | WWII | 1900s | Norway

DRUCKER, MALKA

Jacob's Rescue: A Holocaust Story

Based on real events, this story is about a Jewish boy named Jacob, his flight from Poland to escape the Nazis, and the courageous family who helps him.

RL: 4.5 | WWII | 1900s | Poland

DUMAN TAK, BIBI

Soldier Bear

When Polish soldiers adopt a bear cub and enlist him during World War II, they not only save his life but might just save their own. Based on real events.

RL: 5.2 | WWII | 1900s | Poland/Iran/Italy

LEVITIN, SONIA

Journey to America

As the Jews are singled out in Germany in 1938, Lisa's father heads to America and plans to send for the rest of the family when he's able. But things worsen in Germany, and Lisa and her family flee to Switzerland, where they have little supplies to survive as they wait.

RL: 4.7 | WWII | 1900s | Germany

KERR, JUDITH

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit (*Out of the Hitler Time: Book 1*)

Nine-year-old Anna spends her time tobogganing and doing her schoolwork in Germany at the beginning of World War II. But then her father goes missing, and soon, she and her brother are being led by their mother away from their home and the country that is suddenly hostile to them.

RL: 5.7 | WWII | 1900s | Germany

2000s

PERKINS, MITALI & HOGAN, JAMIE

Rickshaw Girl

Ten-year-old Naima is talented at painting alpanas, designs to decorate Bangladeshi houses for special celebrations. But being a girl means she cannot provide for her family, even as her father struggles to work, so she must disguise herself as a boy and overcome her own failed efforts that put her family further in debt to help.

RL: 4.3 | Modern | 2000s | Asia

“There are two ways of enjoying the past, as there are two ways of enjoying a foreign country. One man carries his Englishry [great word!] abroad with him and brings it home unchanged. Wherever he goes he consorts with the other English tourists. By a good hotel he means one that is like an English hotel. He complains of the bad tea where he might have had excellent coffee. He finds the “natives” quaint and enjoys their quaintness. . . But there is another sort of traveling . . . You can eat the local food and drink the local wines, you can share the foreign life, you can begin to see the foreign country as it looks, not to the tourist, but to its inhabitants.

—CS Lewis “On the Past as a Foreign Country”

ENGAGED READERS

Sixth Grade to Eighth Grade

Engaged Readers: History is a teacher, a source of wisdom and knowledge. It provides the matter which forms and shapes a student who applies himself to learning it. What better way for young people to learn this, than to be transported to the past by an engaging story that brings the lessons to life!



Ancient – 500 A.D.

RENAULT, MARY

Lion in the Gateway

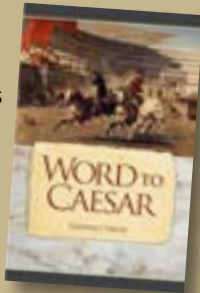
An epic retelling of the Greek battles against the Persians at Marathon, Salamis, and Thermopylae.

RL: 6.0 | Ancient | BC 400s | Greece

TREASE, GEOFFREY

Word to Caesar

A teenage boy travels across the Roman Empire (from Britain to Rome) to deliver a message to Emperor Hadrian. Along the way he must overcome villains and obstacles on his quest to reach the emperor.



RL: 6.0 | Ancient | AD 100s | Roman Empire

WISEMAN, NICHOLAS

Fabiola

A story of faith and courage, set during the Christian persecution under the Roman Emperor Diocletian. The story follows a young girl's journey from spoiled Roman aristocrat to a Christian worshipping secretly in the catacombs.

RL: 6.0 | Ancient | AD 300s | Roman Empire

SWANTON, JUSTIN

Centurion's Daughter

A teenage girl goes on a journey to find her father, a Roman centurion, and is caught up in his plan to save the crumbling Roman Empire.

RL: 6.0 | Ancient | AD 400s | Roman Empire

BELZONI, PAOLO A.

Belisarius (*Belisarius Series: Book 1*)

A tale of action and intrigue that tells the story of the great Roman general Belisarius, who was a symbol of strength during the empire's weakest moment.

RL: 5.0 | Ancient | AD 500s | Roman Empire

NEALE, JOHN MASON

The Daughters of Pola

A series of letters between family members tells the story of the Christian persecution under the Emperor Diocletian.

RL: 6.0 | Ancient | New Testament Era | Roman Empire

WILLIAMSON, JOANNE

Hittite Warrior

After Uriah Tarhund's family is killed and his home is destroyed by the Greeks, he travels to Canaan to make a new life for himself. Along the way he meets Jotham, a Hebrew boy, whose friendship changes the course of Uriah's life. Set during the time of the Book of Judges.

RL: 5.4 | Ancient | BC 1200s | Judea

HYMAN, FREIDA CLARK

Victory on the Walls: A Story of Nehemiah

A young boy named Bani has an unexpected role to play in his Uncle Nehemiah's scheme to leave the court of the Persian king and return to his home in Jerusalem. Will this be seen as a treasonous plot or will it be part of God's plan for the Promised Land?

RL: 5.3 | Ancient | BC 400s | Israel

GREGORY, KRISTIANA

Cleopatra VII: Daughter of the Nile

Part of *The Royal Diaries* series, twelve-year-old Egyptian princess Cleopatra records her inmost thoughts, such as fears for her father who is in hiding and hopes that she survives to one day become Queen of Egypt.

RL: 6.2 | Ancient | Old Testament Era | Egypt | Protestant author

SNEDECKER, CAROLINE DALE

The Forgotten Daughter

Set in the time of the Gracchi, Chloe is the daughter of a Roman patrician, and has been abandoned to live as a slave in her father's villa. She spends her time immersed in Greek poetry and in observing the Roman boy who lives in the neighboring villa. To Chloe their lives could not be more different, yet they are destined to intersect in a way neither of them expect.

RL: 5.0 | Ancient | BC 100s | Rome | Newbery Honor

MCGRAW, ELOISE JARVIS

The Golden Goblet

An action-packed mystery set in ancient Thebes, 11-year-old Ranofer dreams of one day being a master goldsmith like his father was. But first he must escape the abuse of his evil half-brother Gebu. When Ranofer makes a stunning discovery, he knows he has the opportunity to change his destiny and make his dreams come true.

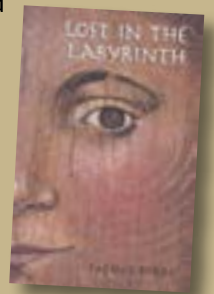
RL: 6.3 | Ancient | BC 1400s | Egypt | Newbery Honor

KINDL, PATRICE

Lost in the Labyrinth

A retelling of the story of Theseus and the Minotaur, told through the eyes of Princess Xenodice, sister of Ariadne. When Xenodice experiences betrayals from all sides, she realizes she must be the one to step forward and save all she holds dear.

RL: 6.2 | Ancient | BC 100s | Crete



PLATT, RICHARD

Egyptian Diary: The Journal of Nakht

In this fictional diary of a young scribe from ancient Egypt, Nakht and his family move from a small town to the big city of Memphis, where he and his sister Tamyt soon discover a plot to rob the nearby tombs. Can they thwart the powerful grave robbers or are they digging their own grave by getting involved?

RL: 5.9 | Ancient | BC 1400s | Egypt

SUTCLIFF, ROSEMARY

The Wanderings of Odysseus

A dramatic retelling of Homer's *The Odyssey*, Odysseus begins his journey home after the triumph of the Trojan War. But monsters, magic, and mayhem greet him at every turn. Can Odysseus overcome these perils and finally reunite with his family?

RL: 6.5 | Ancient | BC 1100s | Greece

PLATT, RICHARD

Roman Diary: The Journal of Iliona, Young Slave

Young Iliona is traveling from Greece to Egypt in the 2nd century when she is captured by pirates, sold into slavery, and finds herself in Rome. Her diary entries detail her experience in this strange land, from the luxury and splendor of Roman baths and feasts, to the thrilling yet brutal gladiator battles.

RL: 6.0 | Ancient | AD 100s | Roman Empire

MCLAREN, CLEMENCE

Inside the Walls of Troy

Helen's beauty started a war, and Cassandra can foresee how it ends. The story of the Trojan War told through the eyes of Helen and Cassandra, as they each recount the famous battle and their unlikely friendship.

RL: 6.4 | Ancient | BC 1100s | Turkey

SUTCLIFF, ROSEMARY

Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad

An illustrated children's novel that retells the story of the Trojan War, from the birth of Paris to the building of the Trojan Horse.

RL: 6.8 | Ancient | BC 1100s | Turkey

HINDS, GARETH

The Iliad

(Adapted from Homer's epic poem)

A graphic novel adaptation of the Iliad, Homer's classic wartime epic about the nine-year Trojan War.

RL: 5.9 | Ancient | BC 1100s | Greece

RAY, MARY

Beyond the Desert Gate

(Roman Empire Sequence: Book 4)

In the Greek city of Philadelphia during the Jewish uprising, Philo and his father find a man named Xenos left to die in the desert. They bring him home to save his life, discovering that he has lost his memory. As Xenos recovers, he teaches Philo the art of being a scribe, remembering his own identity and helping Philo create a new one.

RL: 5.5 | Ancient | First century AD | Rome

HYMAN, FRIEDA CLARK

Victory on the Walls: A Story of Nehemiah

When Bani's uncle requests to leave his place of honor in the Persian kingdom to help his people in the ruined city of Jerusalem, Bani is given an important part to play in restoring Judaism to the Promised Land.

RL: 5.3 | Ancient | 400 BC | Israel



Middle Ages

WILLARD, BARBARA

Augustine Came to Kent

In 597, Pope Gregory sends monks to re-evangelize England. Young Wolf accompanies his father, who serves as interpreter and guide. But the new land might prove hostile to the missionaries, and Wolf must navigate the new world while clinging to his faith.

RL: 5.0 | Middle Ages | 600s | Britain

AVI

Crispin: The Cross of Lead

(Crispin: Book 1)

Crispin, a poor thirteen-year-old peasant in medieval England, lost his mom and never knew his dad. When he is falsely accused of a crime he is declared a "wolf's head"—not human and therefore someone to be killed—he flees his village with only his mother's cross of lead. Claimed by a man named Bear, Crispin learns how to think for himself. His enemies press in, though, and Crispin must fight for his life.

RL: 5.0 | Crusades | 1300s | Europe | Newbery Medal

JEWETT, ELEANORE M.

The Hidden Treasure of Glaston

When Hugh is left in Glastonbury Abbey due to his disability, he discovers what may be the treasure of King Arthur himself.

RL: 7.2 | Middle Ages | 1100s | England | Newbery Honor

Did you know... Historical Fiction didn't come to prominence until the early 1800s. Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* (1819) marked one of its earliest successes, captivating audiences with its blend of history and storytelling. In the story, the plight of the Jews and the challenges of the conflict between Saxons and Normans in England take center stage. Yet, this tale transcends history. It lays out the story of a noble man who knows his happiness lies in following the rules of the Church.



PEART, HENDRY

Red Falcons of Tremoine

Leo, a fifteen-year-old orphan raised in an abbey in the days of King Richard, longs to leave the monastery and experience life outside. Then, he discovers he is heir to two rivaling houses. To claim his inheritance, he must first be transformed by forgiveness.

RL: 5.8 | Middle Ages | 1100s | England

GARTHWAITE, MARION

The Locked Crowns

Princess Goldborough of England is kept prisoner in a high tower, without her rightful kingdom. Meanwhile, Havelok the Dane was stolen away at birth and quietly raised by another family to be kept from inheriting his kingdom. When the two of them meet, they must work together to recapture what was stolen from them.

RL: 4.5 | Middle Ages | 500s | England/Denmark

FRENCH, ALLEN

The Story of Grettir the Strong

Grettir, an Icelandic outlaw, is tasked with eliminating "pests" from society at the dawn of Christianity.

RL: 6.1 | Middle Ages | 900s | Iceland

RICHIE, RITA

The Golden Hawks of Genghis Khan

This narrative tells of young Jalair embarking on a risky journey among the Mongols to recapture the prized Golden Hawks of his father, a Royal Hawker.

RL: 6.3 | Middle Ages | 1200s | Mongolia

PARK, LINDA SUE

A Single Shard

The orphan, Tree-Ear, dreams of becoming a potter in the village known for celadon ware. His life is altered when he must repay a debt to the master potter Min. With courage and perseverance, Tree-Ear embarks on a difficult journey for Min.

RL: 6.6 | Middle Ages | 1100s | Korea | Newbery Medal

DE ANGELI, MARGUERITE

Black Fox of Lorne

Set in the 10th century, this book tells of young Norse twins who set out on a long journey through Scotland to find their parents murderer. With the help of the Black Fox of Lorne and good wit on their behalf, they complete their quest.

RL: 6.4 | Middle Ages | 900s | Scotland | Protestant author

SEREDY, KATE

The White Stag

Obedying the voices of the pagan gods, the tribes of Huns and Magyars move westward to find their promised homeland

RL: 6.6 | Middle Ages | 1100s | Asia/Europe | Newbery Medal

SCHLITZ, LAURA AMY

Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!

A collection of short, interconnected monologues and dialogues set in a medieval village in England.

RL: 5.6 | Middle Ages | 1200s | England | Newbery Medal

To register for a Kolbe Summer Reading Club and to learn about our Summer Reading Challenge visit kolbe.org/summer-reading-program

BARRETT, TRACY

Anna of Byzantium

This story tells of the life of Anna Comnena, a Byzantine princess who lived in the 11th century, and her fight for the throne of the Byzantine Empire.

RL: 6.4 | Middle Ages | 1000s | Middle East

1400s

DORRIS, MICHAEL

Morning Girl

A coming of age story that follows the Taino siblings, a brother and sister who are very different but will soon learn that their differences can bring them closer together. From family struggles to natural disasters, the story captures life in the Caribbean in that fateful year of 1492.

RL: 4.9 | Exploration | 1400s | America | Scott O'Dell Award

STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUIS

The Black Arrow

During the War of the Roses, when Richard Shelton discovers his father's killer is his guardian, he joins the Black Arrow to avenge his father's death.

RL: 9.0 | Middle Ages | 1400s | England

PYLE, HOWARD

Men of Iron

Set in medieval England during the reign of Henry IV, the story tells of the adventures of a young nobleman named Myles Falworth. Determined to restore his family's honor, Myles sets his sights on becoming a knight and seeks revenge against the man who took it all away.

RL: 9.0 | Middle Ages | 1400s | England

**1500s**

RINALDI, ANN

Nine Days a Queen: The Short Life and Reign of Lady Jane Grey

The tale of the brief and tragic reign of Lady Jane Grey, who became queen of England for just nine days at the age of 15.

RL: 4.5 | Middle Ages | 1500s | England

REILLY, ROBERT T.

Red Hugh Prince of Donegal

Red Hugh is imprisoned in Dublin Castle under the restrictive Queen Elizabeth. He must weather a blizzard, save his family's castle, and face evil men as he fights for love of his country.

RL: 6.1 | Middle Ages | 1500s | Ireland

1600s

O'DELL, SCOTT

The Captive*(The Seven Serpents Trilogy: Book 1)*

A Jesuit seminarian arrives on the islands of southeastern Mexico in the early 15th century with the dream of converting the inhabitants of the New World to Christianity. But his dream turns into a nightmare when he is shipwrecked and it seems the only way to save his life is to pretend to be a Mayan god whose return was foretold.

RL: 5.6 | Exploration | 1600s | South America | Trilogy

FREDERICK, HEATHER VOGEL

The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed

Following their mother's death in Nantucket, Captain Goodspeed brings twelve-year-old Patience and six-year-old Tad aboard his whaling ship, where a new crew member incites a mutiny, and Patience puts her mathematical ability to good use.

RL: 6.7 | Exploration | 1600s | America

DUBLE, KATHLEEN BENNER

Quest

Explorer Henry Hudson's final 1602 voyage is told from four points of view, his seventeen-year-old son who joins him on the voyage, his younger son who is left behind in London, a crew member on board the ship, and a young English woman acting as a spy in Holland.

RL: 5.2 | Exploration | 1600s | America/Holland

CARBONE, ELISA

Blood on the River: James Town, 1607

A London orphan living on the street is given a chance at a new life as the page of Captain John Smith on his journey to the New World. But when he settles in the new colony of Jamestown he learns that knowing the difference between friend and foe is not so simple.

RL: 5.3 | Exploration | 1600s | America: VA

O'DELL, SCOTT

The Serpent Never Sleeps: A Novel of Jamestown and Pocahontas

Serena Lynn rejects status and wealth in the English court to follow the love of her life to the New World. But when things don't go as planned she must go to the Princess Pocahontas to save the lives of the Jamestown colonists and the man she loves.

RL: 5.6 | Exploration | 1600s | America: VA

SPEARE, ELIZABETH GEORGE

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Kit Tyler knows her new home in Connecticut will never compare to the island of Barbados she left, but she finds solace in the meadows with an old Quaker woman known as the Witch of Blackbird Pond. But then the Puritan community notices their friendship, and they accuse Kit of being a witch herself.

RL: 5.7 | Religious Faith | 1600s | America: CT | Newbery Medal

DE TREVINO, ELIZABETH BOLTON

I, Juan de Pareja

As Diego Velasquez's slave, Juan de Pareja watches his master paint and becomes a prolific painter of his own. But slaves aren't allowed to paint, and if anyone finds out about his secret talent, it will cost him.

RL: 6.5 | Slavery | 1600s | Spain | Newbery Medal

PETRY, ANN

Tituba of Salem Village

In Salem in 1692, Tituba, a slave, is the first to be accused of being a witch during the Salem Witch Trials. From Barbados and able to tell fortunes and spin fine thread, she is the obvious choice for all the oddities going on. But that doesn't mean she's responsible, and she must prove her innocence if she wants to live.

RL: 5.4 | Slavery | 1600s | America: MA

1700s

STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUIS

Treasure Island

A swashbuckling classic novel in which an innkeeper's son discovers a treasure map in the possessions of a deceased guest. The map takes the boy on an adventure filled with pirates, deserted islands, and buried treasure.

RL: 8.3 | Exploration | 1700s | England

FIELD, RACHEL

Calico Bush

Marguerite is a young French orphan who travels to Maine as the indentured servant of a family of English settlers. Marguerite finds it difficult to survive the cruel winter of 1743, wonders if the Native Americans will attack the homestead, and desperately misses her family. But her strength and courage soon surprise them all.

RL: 6.2 | Frontier | 1700s | America: ME | Newbery Honor | Protestant author

KRASKE, ROBERT

Marooned: The Strange but True Adventures of Alexander Selkirk the Real Robinson Crusoe

The real-life inspiration for Robinson Crusoe, Alexander Selkirk survived in solitude on a remote island for four years.

RL: 6.6 | Non-Fiction/Survival | 1700s | Europe

WIBBERLY, LEONARD

John Treegate's Musket
(*Treegate: Book 1*)

Eleven-year-old Peter has enjoyed the protection of his father and has remained loyal to the British crown while living in Boston during colonial times. But when his father is sent overseas, Peter ends up framed for murder and flees to the high seas, where he begins questioning everything he has heard about the pending Revolutionary War.

RL: 7.1 | Revolutionary War | 1700s | America

SAVERY, CONSTANCE

The Reb and the Redcoats

When Uncle Lawrence is entrusted with housing an American prisoner of war, a British family finds themselves becoming attached to the American and becoming sympathetic to his story.

RL: 6.2 | Revolutionary War | 1700s | England

FORBES, ESTHER

Johnny Tremaine

When a young apprentice maims his hand in a silversmith accident, he takes a job delivering newspapers. Little does he know that this one choice will lead him to cross paths with John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and Dr. Joseph Warren as he becomes entwined with significant events leading up to the American Revolution.

RL: 5.9 | Revolutionary War | 1700s | America | Newbery Medal

ANDERSON, LAURIE HALSE

Chains*(The Seeds of America: Book 1)*

After being promised freedom, a cruel couple buys Isabel and her sister Ruth as slaves. But when Isabel learns that her owners have secret information about British plans in the American Revolution, she acts as a spy, willing to sell her loyalty to whoever will grant her freedom.

RL: 5.2 | Slavery | 1700s | America: NY | Scott O'Dell Award

O'DELL, SCOTT

My Name is Not Angelica

At sixteen, Raisha is sold into slavery on St. John Island, where she is one of the "lucky ones" sheltered as a house servant rather than sentenced to hard labor as a field worker. But even in the house, she witnesses the horrors other slaves experience and must decide if she should join the slave revolt and risk her own life to defend the lives of others.

RL: 4.8 | Slavery | 1700s | Caribbean



WYSS, JOHANN DAVID

Swiss Family Robinson

As Father Robinson and his family sail toward Australia, they meet a violent storm that damages their ship. Finding refuge on an uninhabited island nearby in the East Indies, the family must find food, build shelter, and rely on their faith in God to survive.

RL: 9.7 | Survival | 1700s | Pacific Ocean

1800s

MEYER, CAROLYN

Where the Broken Heart Still Beats: The Story of Cynthia Ann Parker

When she was nine years old, Cynthia Ann Parker was captured by the Comanche tribe, and decades later she is living a happy life as the wife of a chief and the mother of a great warrior. But in 1861 Cynthia and her baby daughter are recaptured by a white settlement and Cynthia must build a new life in a world that is far different than the one she left behind.

RL: 6.1 | Captive Narrative | 1800s | America: TX

SMITH, ROLAND

The Captain's Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe

Captain Meriwether Lewis's dog Seaman describes his experiences as he accompanies his master on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the uncharted western wilderness.

RL: 5.8 | Exploration | 1800s | America

SNEDECKER, CAROLINE DALE

Downright Dencey

Dencey is a young Quaker girl living on the island of Nantucket, who is considered a rebel when she befriends Jetsam, the son of an alcoholic father. The unlikely pair become friends, despite their religious differences and parental disapproval.

RL: 5.4 | Family Life | 1800s | America: MA

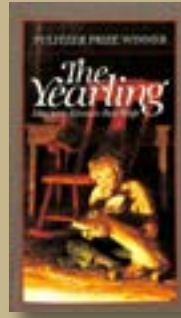
RAWLINGS, MARJORIE

The Yearling

A classic novel about the journey from boyhood into manhood and the love between a child and a pet. Jody Baxter is a young boy living in rural Florida who adopts an injured fawn, and raises it as his beloved pet.

As Jody and his fawn both mature and grow, Jody learns that along with adulthood comes many decisions and difficulties. The plot contains mild profanity and racial slurs.

RL: 5.0 | Family Life | 1800s | America: FL | Pulitzer Prize



RINALDI, ANN

Mutiny's Daughter

A fictional twist on a classic story, after the mutiny on board HMS Bounty mutineer Fletcher Christian escapes and finds his way back to his daughter Mary.

RL: 4.1 | Family Life | 1800s | England

AVI

The Barn

Ben is an exceptional student, but he is called home from school in Portland, Oregon after his father suffers a massive stroke. Back on the homestead Ben and his siblings are left to fend for themselves, but Ben has a plan to fulfill his father's dream, in the hopes it will keep him alive.

RL: 3.9 | Frontier | 1800s | America: OR

GIPSON, FRED

Old Yeller

A classic story of a boy and his dog and their adventures in the post-Civil War Texas wilderness.

RL: 5.0 | Frontier | 1800s | America: TX | Newbery Honor

LONDON, JACK

White Fang

A classic adventure story about the friendship that develops between a Yukon gold hunter and a half-breed dog-wolf that he saves from mistreatment.

RL: 7.4 | Frontier | 1800s | Canada

PATERSON, KATHERINE

Jip, His Story

As far back as he can remember, Jip was told that he fell off the back of a gypsy wagon, and no one ever came back for him. But when a stranger shows up and begins asking questions around town, Jip learns about his past and how he ended up at this Vermont poor farm.

RL: 5.3 | Frontier | 1800s | America: VT | Scott O'Dell Award | Protestant author

MCGRAW, ELOISE JARVIS

Moccasin Trail

Jim Keath attempts to re-orient himself to life as a white man after living for six years as a Crow Indian.

RL: 5.8 | Frontier | 1800s | America: OR | Newbery Honor

TIMBERLAKE, AMY

One Came Home

In 1871 Wisconsin, thirteen-year-old Georgie sets out to find her sister Agatha, who is presumed dead when remains are found wearing the dress she was last seen in. The plot contains violence.

RL: 4.8 | Frontier | 1800s | America: WI | Newbery Honor

O'DELL, SCOTT

Sing Down the Moon

The forced migration of Navajos from their homeland is described from the Native American point of view.

RL: 4.9 | Frontier | 1800s | America: AZ | Newbery Medal

BLOS, JOAN W.

A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal, 1830-32

Told through thirteen-year-old Catherine's journal entries, this fictional account of a girl growing up in New England in the 1830s provides an accurate glimpse into life in those times. Catherine records her struggle to adjust to her father's remarriage four years after her mom died and coping with a friend growing ill, all while living daily life on her family farm.

RL: 6.7 | Frontier | 1800s | America: NH | Newbery Medal

MORROW, HONORÉ WILLISIE

Seven Alone!

(Also titled: *On to Oregon!*)

This is the story of the epic journey of the Sager children by covered wagon from Missouri to Oregon in 1844.

RL: 6.1 | Frontier | 1800s | America

PAULSEN, GARY

Mr. Tucket

(*The Tucket Adventure Series: Book 1*)

A young boy is captured on the Oregon Trail by Pawnee Indians.

RL: 5.0 | Frontier | 1800s | America

O'DELL, SCOTT

Carlotta

A young girl relates her feelings and experiences as a participant in the Battle of San Pasqual during the last days of the war between the Californians and Americans.

RL: 5.4 | Frontier | 1800s | America: CA

RINALDI, ANN

The Staircase

When thirteen-year-old Lizzy Enders's father sends her to a Catholic boarding school for girls, Lizzy is shunned for being the only Methodist. Then Lizzy befriends a carpenter named Jose, who begins building a staircase to the choir loft, causing her to receive further ostracism from the girls who believe she is interfering with the novena to St. Joseph to miraculously complete the project. But when Jose completes the staircase with few tools and little time—and other miracles occur in his presence—Lizzy begins to wonder if things are always how they appear.

RL: 4.3 | Frontier | 1800s | America: NM

BURKS, BRIAN

Wrango

With the end of the War Between the States, George McJunkin and his family have earned their freedom from slavery. But George doesn't feel like his life is much improved despite his parents' claim that change is coming—they still live in a tiny shack, there's never enough food, and his father still works for their former owner. George would rather take his fate into his own hands, so he becomes a cowboy on the Chisholm Trail.

RL: 5.2 | Frontier | 1800s | America: TX

NAPOLI, DONNA JO

The King of Mulberry Street

A nine-year-old Italian boy arrives alone in New York in 1892 and must find a way to survive. As he gains street smarts among the other homeless children, he also starts a new business and finds a family of his own.

RL: 3.9 | Immigrants | 1800s | America: NY

FLETCHER, SUSAN

Walk Across the Sea

Eliza knows what keeps her safe—only crossing from her island to the mainland during low tide and steering clear of the “Celestials,” the Chinese immigrants who threaten their town. But then Wah Chung saves her and her goat from a “sneaker wave,” and Eliza begins to doubt her father's strong beliefs and her town's fears. When Wah Chung comes to her for help, Eliza must make up her own mind about what is safe and what is right.

RL: 4.3 | Immigrants | 1800s | America: CA

DE TREVINO, ELIZABETH BORTON

El Guero: A True Adventure Story

This story tells of a Mexican family during the time of the Mexican Revolution, when El Guero's father, who is a judge, is exiled from their home by the new government. It is based on the boyhood adventures of the author's father-in-law, the real El Guero.

RL: 5.4 | Modern | 1800s | Mexico | Catholic author

LAWSON, ROBERT

The Great Wheel

When Conn's uncle offers him a job in America, he leaves Ireland and sets sail for the new country, where he helps construct the first ferris wheel for the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

RL: 6.5 | Modern | 1800s | Ireland/England | Newbery Honor

ARMSTRONG, WILLIAM

Sounder

In the Deep South in the nineteenth century, an African-American boy and his family struggle to find enough food. When there's a full meal on the table one morning, it seems like a blessing, but the sheriff soon arrives to throw his dad in jail for stealing. Boon and his dog, Sounder, must grow in courage as they face prejudice and poverty.

RL: 5.3 | Modern | 1800s | America | Newbery Medal



CARBONE, ELISA

Storm Warriors

When twelve-year-old Nathan is driven from his home by the Ku Klux Klan in the late 1800s, he moves to Pea Island in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Inspired by the African-American surfmen who rescue sailors from sinking ships, Nathan hopes to become one of them. But he must first battle racism and his father's discouragement.

RL: 5.5 | Modern | 1800s | America: NC

BRUCHAC, JOSEPH

On This Long Journey: The Journal of Jesse Smoke

After the Mission School is shut down, sixteen-year-old Jesse Smoke returns to live with his mother and sisters. But when they're awakened one night and dragged from their homes, they must journey westward through the bitter winter on the Trail of Tears.



RL: 6.2 | Native American | 1800s | America

BURKS, BRIAN

Walks Alone

Fifteen-year-old Walks Alone must join with other refugees to survive after a brutal massacre leaves many of her Apache tribe dead.

RL: 5.4 | Native American | 1800s | America: NM

BLUMBERG, RHODA

York's Adventures with Lewis and Clark

York, Clark's slave, traveled on the perilous Lewis and Clark expedition, lugging provisions and paddling boats. Though perhaps his most notable achievement was in peaceable relations with the Native American tribes they encountered along the way.

RL: 7.9 | Non-Fiction | 1800s | America

BLUMBERG, RHODA

Commodore Perry in the Land of the Shogun

When American Commodore Perry and his troops sailed to Japan in 1853, they brought advances in science and technology with them. For an isolated country still living like the Middle Ages, the biggest shock came in the form of a whole new way of living from an unknown land called America.

RL: 7.9 | Non-Fiction | 1800s | Japan | Newbery Honor

BLUMBERG, RHODA

Shipwrecked!

When fourteen-year-old Manjiro's fishing boat is shipwrecked three hundred miles away, Manjiro believes he'll never be allowed back home according to Japanese law. So when an American whaling boat rescues him, he chooses to sail to America and becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in America.

RL: 7.4 | Non-Fiction | 1800s | Japan/America

LAFAYE, A.

Worth

After eleven-year-old Nate breaks his leg in a farm accident, his father brings home a boy named Worth from the Orphan Train to help on the farm. With Nate in school for the first time and Worth giving up his dream of an education, both boys feel out of place and frustrated with the turn their lives have taken. But soon the boys form a connection, discovering there might be a place for both of them on the farm and in the family.

RL: 4.5 | Orphan Story | 1800s | America: NE | Scott O'Dell Award



CONLON-MCKENNA, MARITA

Under the Hawthorn Tree
(*Children of the Famine Series: Book 1*)

In Ireland in the 1840s, three siblings are left to survive on their own. As the country experiences the potato famine, they are soon to be sent to the dreaded workhouse but instead seek to find their great-aunts. The journey requires perseverance and strength—and has its own set of hardships.

RL: 5.0 | Potato Famine | 1800s | Ireland

FOX, PAULA

The Slave Dancer

Kidnapped from the docks while playing the fife, Jessie is forced to play music aboard a slave ship to encourage dancing and keep the slaves fit. As he witnesses horrors unimaginable, he grows more and more disgusted by the inhumanity before him.

RL: 6.0 | Modern | 1800s | America: LA | Newbery Medal

ECKERT, ALLAN

Incident at Hawk's Hill
(*Hawk's Hill: Book 1*)

Based on a true incident, this story tells of an animal-loving six-year-old boy who disappears into the prairie grass and survives for months with the help of a female badger.

RL: 7.2 | Survival | 1800s | Canada | Newbery Honor

CRANE, STEPHEN

Red Badge of Courage

After deserting the Union Army on the battlefield, Henry returns, longing to redeem himself by earning a red badge of courage, a wound that proves his bravery in the war.

RL: 8.0 | US Civil War | 1800s | America

ALCOTT, LOUISA MAY

Little Women

As the March sisters grow up in Civil War-era New England, they learn lessons in morality, friendship, and womanhood.

RL: 7.9 | US Civil War | 1800s | America

TWIN, MARK

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Tom Sawyer, mischief-maker in a town near the Mississippi River, befriends the town outcast, Huck Finn. Together, they entertain themselves with pranks that lead to both punishments and adventures, like finding treasure and witnessing a murder.

RL: 8.1 | US Civil War | 1800s | America: MO

HUNT, IRENE

Across Five Aprils

Over the course of five years, Jethro finds himself watching the Civil War split the nation, his brother and cousin join the fight, and his Southern Illinois community confront their divided loyalties.

RL: 6.6 | US Civil War | 1800s | America: IL | Newbery Honor

KEITH, HAROLD

Rifles for Watie

Sixteen-year-old Jeff is finally able to fight for the Union army, though the fight is harder and longer than he expected. But when he ends up among enemy troops, he sees both sides of the battle and realizes people are people on both sides.

RL: 6.1 | US Civil War | 1800s | America | Newbery Medal



ALCOTT, LOUISA MAY

An Old-Fashioned Girl

When young Polly Milton travels to the city to visit her friend Fanny, she's overwhelmed by the lavish lifestyles and extravagant fashion choices of the people around her. Feeling out of place and dissatisfied with city life, she must decide if she will change who she is to fit in or stay true to who she is—and in doing so, perhaps change those around her.

RL: 8.2 | Historical Fiction | 1800s | America | Newbery Medal

1900s

BYARS, BETSY

Summer of the Swans

A fourteen-year-old girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally handicapped brother goes missing and she must go out in search of him.

RL: 4.9 | Family Life | 1900s | America: WV | Newbery Medal

TAYLOR, MILDRED D.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

The Logan family struggles to maintain their warmth, humor, and integrity as a black family facing racism and injustice in Depression-era Mississippi.

RL: 5.7 | Family Life | 1900s | America: MS | Newbery Medal

KADOHATA, CYNTHIA

Kira-Kira

A coming of age novel about a young Japanese girl living in rural Georgia in the 1950s - 60s. Katie has an incredibly close bond with her older sister, who taught her the term "Kira Kira" which means glittering or shining. They use it to describe things that glitter in their lives. But when tragedy strikes, Katie must struggle to see the light amidst the darkness.

RL: 4.7 | Family Life | 1900s | America: GA | Newbery Medal

HOLT, KIMBERLY WILLIS

My Louisiana Sky

Growing up in Saitter, Louisiana, in the 1950s, twelve-year-old Tiger Ann is desperate to get away from her bullying classmates and mentally handicapped parents. But when her stern but loving grandmother dies and Tiger Ann has the chance to move to Baton Rouge, she realizes that leaving home is not so easy.

RL: 4.6 | Family Life | 1900s | America: LA

CAMERON, ANN

The Secret Life of Amanda K. Woods

There is more to Amanda Woods than the plain, average girl from rural Wisconsin that most people see. And Amanda is determined to prove it. As she breaks out of her shell, she gradually and painfully learns a lot about her parents, her older sister, and especially herself.

RL: 5.0 | Family Life | 1900s | America: WI

LONDON, JACK

Call of the Wild

Buck, a dog forced into the harsh life of a sled dog, must ultimately decide whether to stay with his master or listen to his instincts. The plot contains racial prejudice within historical context and mild profanity.

RL: 8.0 | Frontier | 1900s | America: AK

PECK, RICHARD

**A Long Way From Chicago
(*A Long Way From Chicago Series: Book 1*)**

Joey and his sister live in Chicago during the time of Al Capone but find the greatest adventures in their summers with Grandma in a sleepy rural town. From dealing with lazy fathers to greedy bankers, Grandma takes matters into her own hands to teach lessons and enact justice.

RL: 5.0 | Great Depression | 1900s | America: IL

PECK, RICHARD

A Year Down Yonder (*A Long Way From Chicago Series: Book 2*)

Mary Alice already has memories of too many summer adventures to count with Grandma Dowdel in her sleepy town. But now, she'll be staying an entire year with Grandma—and her only expectation is that the year will be entirely unexpected.

RL: 4.5 | Great Depression | 1900s | America: IL | Newbery Medal

WHELAN, GLORIA

Goodbye, Vietnam

Mai and her family seek to escape Vietnam's power-hungry government through a sea voyage to Hong Kong, facing hunger, thirst, and a boat surely too small to carry them all.

RL: 5.2 | Immigrants | 1900s | Vietnam

HOLM, ANN

I Am David

The story of a young boy named David who escapes from a concentration camp and embarks on a journey across Europe to find freedom and discover his true identity.

RL: 5.6 | Modern | 1900s | Europe

GIBSON, WILLIAM

The Miracle Worker

Based on the play by William Gibson about the true story of Helen Keller and her teacher Anne Sullivan. A compelling and inspiring story of resilience, determination, and the transformative power of education.

RL: 5.2 | Modern | 1900s | America



PATERSON, KATHERINE

My Brigadista Year

Set in Cuba, this novel follows the story of thirteen-year-old Lora, who volunteers for the Cuban literacy campaign initiated by Fidel Castro's government. Lora leaves her home and family in Havana to travel to the rural countryside, where she becomes a brigadista, teaching illiterate farmers and their families how to read and write.

RL: 5.3 | Modern | 1900s | Cuba | Protestant author

ULLMAN, JAMES RAMSEY

Banner in the Sky

Rudi's father was the only man to dare climb the last summit of the Alps, but he met his end in the pursuit. To honor his father, Rudi resolves to make it to the top—and plant his father's red shirt at the peak—but must first face the very chasm that claimed his father's life.

RL: 5.1 | Modern | 1900s | Switzerland | Newbery Honor

GIFF, PATRICIA REILLY

Pictures of Hollis Woods

Named for the woods she was abandoned in as an infant, Hollis Woods longs for a family of her own. Sent from foster home to foster home, she finally finds a place to belong with Josie, an artist. But Josie is becoming more and more forgetful each day, and Hollis must hide the truth if she wants to stay with Josie, where she can take pictures to reminisce about the only other foster home where she belonged.

RL: 4.4 | Modern | 1900s | America | Newbery Honor

SHANNON, MONICA

Dobry

A Bulgarian peasant boy dreams of becoming an artist rather than the farmer his mother expects him to be.

RL: 5.6 | Modern | 1900s | Bulgaria | Newbery Medal

HUNT, IRENE

Up a Road Slowly

When Julie was only seven, her mother died, so she was sent to live with Aunt Cordelia. From age seven to eighteen, as she grows up in the country, Julie learns lessons of love, friendship, and maturity.

RL: 6.6 | Modern | 1900s | America: IL | Newbery Medal

FARLEY, WALTER

Man O'War

(*The Black Stallion: Book 16*)

Danny Ryan, stable boy, details the life of Man o' War, an American thoroughbred racehorse held as the greatest racehorse of all time, in this fictional account based on real events.

RL: 5.8 | Modern | 1900s | America: KY

BUCK, PEARL S.

The Big Wave

When a tsunami tragically kills Jiya's family, he must find courage and hope to face his sorrow with the help of his friend Kino and his family.

RL: 5.2 | Modern | 1900s | Japan

CHOI, SOOK NYUL

The Year of Impossible Goodbyes (*The Year of Impossible Goodbyes: Book 1*)

Ten-year-old Sookan endures the severe rule of Japanese military occupying North Korea and celebrates with everyone else when the war ends. But she's quick to discover that the new Communist Russian rule is every bit as oppressive. To find freedom, she and her family must flee to South Korea and survive the dangerous journey.

RL: 5.6 | Modern | 1900s | Korea

PARK, LINDA SUE

A Long Walk to Water

When the Sudanese Civil War reaches his village, eleven-year-old Salva runs straight into the bush instead of returning home. He faces wild animals, hunger, and worry over his family as he travels through the wilderness seeking safety. Weaved throughout this narrative is a story of a girl years later who spends most of her day fetching water for her family—and eventually crosses paths with Salva.

RL: 5.0 | Modern | 1900s | Sudan

BRUCHAC, JOSEPH

Two Roads

After losing their farm during the Great Depression, Cal and his Pop have been riding the rails. But when Pop needs to attend to other affairs, he reveals that he—and Cal—are Creek Indians and sends Cal to a government boarding school in Oklahoma to learn his heritage.

RL: 4.9 | Native American | 1900s | America

SÍS, PETER

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain

Through illustrations and maps, Peter reveals details of his life growing up in a Communist country. As a teen, he learned about Western culture and was enamored—until the Soviet-led invasion killed his dreams. But his creativity had already been sparked, and he never gave up on his art.

RL: 5.2 | Non-Fiction | 1900s | Europe | Caldecott Honor

HOUSTON, JEANNE WAKATSUKI

Farewell to Manzanar

In 1942, at the age of seven, Jeanne and her family were sent to live in an internment camp with ten thousand Japanese Americans in California, where she grew up oppressed and confused and watched her father spend the last of his days.

RL: 6.7 | Non-Fiction | 1900s | America: CA

LEKUTON, JOSEPH LEMASOLAI

Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna

Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton recounts his childhood growing up in Kenya, including his first encounter with a lion, his days herding cattle, and his travel to America for college.

RL: 5.1 | Non-Fiction | 1900s | Kenya

HAUTZIG, ESTHER

The Endless Steppe

When Esther's family is arrested by the Russians and forced from their Polish home to the steppe of Siberia, Esther must weed potato fields, work the mines, and struggle for survival.

RL: 6.3 | Non-Fiction | 1900s | Poland/Siberia

PAULSEN, GARY

Hatchet (*Brian's Saga: Book 1*)

When a plane crash leaves thirteen-year-old Brian the sole survivor in the Canadian wilderness, he must rely on his hatchet to survive. At first wallowing in self pity about his parents' divorce and his fate after the plane crash, he learns self-reliance and courage that help him see his situation in a new light.

RL: 5.7 | Survival | 1900s | Canada | Newbery Honor

GEORGE, JEAN CRAIGHEAD

Julie of the Wolves (*The Julie Trilogy: Book 1*)

When Miyax runs away from home toward a pen pal who calls her Julie, she gets lost in the Alaskan wilderness. Observing a pack of wolves, she begins mimicking their behavior and becomes accepted as one of them. While life in the wilderness is difficult, she comes to appreciate her new identity and must decide who she will be when she returns to civilization.

RL: 5.8 | Survival | 1900s | America: AK | Newbery Medal

SEYMOUR, ALTA HALVERSON

On the Edge of the Fjord

Fourteen-year-old Petra Engeland and her brother, Martin, live in Valcos, a sleepy Norwegian fishing village. When Nazi officers quarter themselves in their home, Petra and Martin must lead daring schemes under the noses of occupying forces to save their family and their homeland.

RL: 5.6 | WWII | 1900s | Norway

SEYMOUR, ALTA HALVERSON

The Tangled Skein

Shortly after the end of World War II, fifteen-year-old Solveig returns home to Norway from Scotland, where she stayed for five years during the war. But now that she is back, she must unravel truth from rumor about the roles her family played during the war to help restore honor to their name.

RL: 5.7 | WWII | 1900s | Norway

MUKERJI, DHAN GOPAL

Gay-Neck, The Story of a Pigeon

Gay-Neck, a brave carrier pigeon in India, is sent by his master to serve in World War I.

RL: 6.5 | WWI | 1900s | India/France | Newbery Medal

HESSE, KAREN

Aleutian Sparrow

Vera, an Aleutian Islander, and the Aleut people are relocated to Alaska's southeast after an attack by the Japanese during World War II, where they must adapt to a foreign way of life.

RL: 5.7 | WWII | 1900s | America: AK



DUBLE, KATHLEEN BENNER

Phantoms in the Snow

After fifteen-year-old Noah's parents die, he's sent to live with his uncle in Colorado. He's never met his uncle, he's never seen snow, and most importantly, as a pacifist, he's never agreed with war. But as he lives among soldiers during World War II, he finds his views tested and must decide what he believes.

RL: 4.7 | WWII | 1900s | America: CO

TAYLOR, THEODORE

The Cay (*The Cay: Book 1*)

When his ship to the U.S. from Curacao Island gets torpedoed, Phillip ends up on a raft in the middle of the ocean with an old West Indian. Wary to trust him after his mother's warnings about black people, Phillip soon becomes dependent on Timothy for survival. Text includes images of wartime violence and themes of voodoo.

RL: 5.3 | WWII | 1900s | Atlantic Ocean

ALBUS, KATE

A Place to Hang the Moon

During World War II, after the death of their guardian, three siblings are sent to the English countryside along with other schoolchildren for safety. The hope is that a family who takes them in will adopt them, but as they encounter cruel tricks from foster siblings, hungry bellies, and bouncing from place to place, their only solace is in the lending library and the librarian who works there. Text contains mild violence.

RL: 5.0 | WWII | 1900s | England

MEYER, SUSAN LYNN

Black Radishes(*Black Radishes: Book 1*)

Gustave and his family move from Paris to the French countryside for safety during the German occupation of France. When Paris is seized, Gustave knows they must leave the country completely, so he devises a plan with the help of his new friend Nicole, who is part of the French Resistance. But the plan requires going into Occupied France—a dangerous mission.

RL: 5.2 | WWII | 1900s | France

MORPURGO, MICHAEL

An Elephant in the Garden

During World War II in Dresden, Lizzie's zookeeper mother is supposed to destroy the animals to prevent them from running wild in the likely event of a bombing. But the family is attached to Marlene, an elephant, so they instead bring her to live in their garden. When Dresden is bombed, Lizzie and her family must escape to safety—with an elephant in tow.

RL: 5.2 | WWII | 1900s | Germany

PARK, LINDA SUE

When My Name Was Keoko

The Japanese have taken over Korea, and now Sun-hee must learn to read and write in Japanese and must even change her name. Everyone is expected to help the Japanese fight in World War II, but then Sun-hee discovers her uncle is part of the Korean resistance. While her brother goes off to fight, she stays home to guard their family's secret.

RL: 4.6 | WWII | 1900s | Korea

BARROW, RANDI

Finding Zasha

When twelve-year-old Ivan moves in with relatives, he's recruited to work for the Nazis. Determined to undermine their mission, he sets out to rescue the dogs he's supposed to train. As he attempts to do so, he's not only pursued by the ruthless soldier who owns them but he also finds himself in the middle of a deadly warzone.

RL: 4.8 | WWII | 1900s | Russia

GILBRETH CAREY, ERNESTINE

Cheaper by the Dozen

This hilarious collection of anecdotes tells the biographical tale of a family with twelve kids, an efficiency-expert father, and a mother who is his partner in every way except discipline.

RL: 6.0 | Modern | 1900s | America: NJ

MONTGOMERY, L.M.

The Blue Castle

Valancy has lived her life under the control of a strict family, never rebelling or complaining about the life laid out before her. But when she's told she only has a year left to live, she takes life into her own hands, finding the man and house of her dreams and attempting to squeeze every minute out of the time she has left.

RL: 5.5 | Modern | 1900s | Canada



2000s

SENZAI, N. H.

Shooting Kabul

Fleeing Afghanistan for California, Fadi is far away from his missing six-year-old sister. Things only get worse after September 11th since finding Mariam in a war-torn country seems impossible. But when Fadi learns of a photography competition with a grand prize of a trip to India, he does all he can to win the chance to return home to find her.

RL: 5.4 | Immigrants | 2000s | America: CA

PATERSON, KATHERINE

The Day of the Pelican

The novel centers around the experiences of 12-year-old Meli, her older brother Mehmet, and their family as they escape the violence and persecution in Kosovo and seek refuge in America during the Kosovo War.

RL: 5.2 | Modern | 2000s | Kosovo | Protestant author

PINKNEY, ANDREA DAVIS

The Red Pencil

Amira dreams of going to school, but when she's finally old enough, her Sudanese village is attacked by the Janjaweed. She must flee to a refugee camp, without everything she's ever known, where the days are hard—until someone gives her a red pencil.

RL: 4.2 | Modern | 2000s | Sudan

STAPLES, SUZANNE FISHER

Under the Persimmon Tree

When Najmah's father and brother are forced to join the Taliban army and her mother and newborn brother are killed, Najmah finds herself alone, relying on the stars, which her father promised would take care of her. Also alone, Nusrat teaches refugee children while her husband runs a clinic in Afghanistan far from her, but he assures her the stars will tell her where he is. The pair's lives intertwine as they rely on the stars—and each other—during the war.

RL: 5.9 | Modern | 2000s | Afghanistan

BRADLEY, KIMBERLY BRUBAKER

Leap of Faith

After being expelled, Abigail is sent to a Catholic school as a last resort. To upset her parents, who aren't Catholic, Abigail converts. All she wants to do is blend in the background and not be bullied, but she soon discovers a talent for theater and a belief in the faith she has only pretended to claim.

RL: 5.2 | Religious Faith | 2000s | America



UNPLUGGED

Ninth Grade to Twelfth Grade

We live in a world that is full of interruptions and instant information. This has greatly reduced people's ability to focus on a task for a long period of time. Allow young adults time to read and reduce interruptions. The result is a less stressed, more focused youth! It's never too late to enter the world of historical fiction. Take a leap and give it a try!



Ancient

RAY, MARY

Spring Tide

Set in Britain during the Roman Empire, two young friends meet a Christian priest who is later captured and imprisoned by the Romans. The friends devise a plan to rescue the priest, even though it may cost them their lives.

RL: 4.8 | Ancient | AD 300s | England

RAY, MARY

Beyond the Desert Gate

Philo is a poor young man in 1st century Palestine. Philo's father saved a man who was left by the Romans to die in the desert, but the man does not remember who he is or what he was punished for. Together Philo and the man from the desert try to find their identities. (A sequel to *The Ides of April*.)

RL: 5.5 | Ancient | New Testament Era | Palestine

RAY, MARY

The Ides of April

When a Roman senator is found dead, the servants of his house are immediately suspected. Hylas, a young Greek slave in the senator's household, must solve the mystery of the senator's death in order to escape capture. His journey into the political intrigue of Rome brings him in contact with Emperor Nero and a new religious group who call themselves Christians.

RL: 7.0 | Ancient | New Testament Era | Rome

NEWMAN, JOHN HENRY CARDINAL

Callista

Callista is a young Greek girl who carves statues of pagan gods in 3rd century Rome, and she's unhappy with her life. But then she meets Agellius, a Christian, who is willing to suffer persecution for his beliefs. When Callista is supposed to offer incense to the pagan gods, she must make a choice as to who she wants to follow, and the result will have eternal consequences.

RL: 7.0 | Ancient | AD 300s | Africa

BARRETT, TRACY

Dark of the Moon

A retelling of the story of Theseus and the Minotaur, told through the eyes of Ariadne, a lonely and isolated teenage girl who is destined to become the goddess of the moon. When a Greek ship arrives on Crete Ariadne finds a friend in Theseus, the son of the king of Athens. But when she learns of Theseus' mission she is faced with a terrible choice.

RL: 6.2 | Ancient | BC 100s | Crete

BRADSHAW, GILLIAN

Cleopatra's Heir

A novel that follows a fictional story of Caesarion, the son of Julius Caesar and Cleopatra, if he had survived the assassination ordered by Octavius. Caesarion quickly goes from the son of the world's most powerful rulers to a hunted fugitive, and must seek refuge amongst the people he used to despise.

RL: 6.2 | Ancient | New Testament Era | Egypt/Rome

SUTCLIFF, ROSEMARY

The Eagle of the Ninth

A young Roman officer travels beyond Hadrian's wall and among the hostile tribes of the north to discover what happened to the Ninth Legion, a legion commanded by his father who mysteriously disappeared.

RL: 7.1 | Ancient | AD 200s | England

BRADSHAW, GILLIAN

The Sand-Reckoner

A tale of young genius, Archimedes must go from learning at Ptolemy's Museum in Alexandria back to his hometown of Syracuse. But he finds life in his hometown is not as boring as he imagined. Archimedes is faced with love and war, wealth and woe, and through it all the beauty and power of mathematics.

RL: 7.0 | Ancient | BC 200s | Greece

CARD, ORSON SCOTT

Sarah

(*Women of Genesis: Book 1*)

The story of Sarah, wife of Abraham and mother of a great nation.

RL: 6.2 | Religious Faith | Old Testament Era | Israel | Mormon author

WALLACE, LEW

Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ

When Judah, a Jewish prince, is wrongfully convicted, he becomes a slave in the Roman empire. He plans to exact revenge, but as his life intersects with Jesus Christ, he discovers a new way of forgiveness and love.

RL: 9.1 | Religious Faith | New Testament Era | Jerusalem

Middle Ages

PEEK, SUSAN

Crusader King: A Novel of Baldwin IV and the Crusades

An action-packed, thrilling novel about the life of Baldwin IV of Jerusalem, the leper Crusader king. Despite being only thirteen years old when he ascended the throne and living with a debilitating disease, Baldwin was known to perform great and heroic deeds in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

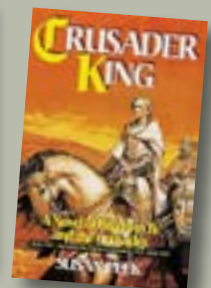
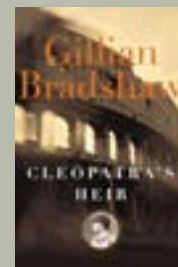
RL: 6.0 | Crusades | 1100s | Jerusalem | Catholic author

FRENCH, ALLEN

Heroes of Iceland

This adaptation of Iceland's greatest saga, *The Story of Burnt Njal*, recounts the unforgettable house-burning that resulted as a culmination of terrible blood feuds.

RL: 6.4 | Middle Ages | 900s | Iceland



PEEK, SUSAN

Saint Magnus, the Last Viking

Be transported back to ancient Viking times, when Magnus Erlendson, a young prince who burns with love of God, pursues the hope of restoring his father's conquered kingdom.

RL: 6.4 | Middle Ages | 1100s | England | Catholic author

PEEK, SUSAN

Saint Cloud of Gaul, the Prince who Traded Kingdoms

This harrowing tale tells of young Prince Cloud, grandson of mighty King Clovis and heir to the Kingdom of Orleans. Prince Cloud is thrown into a tumultuous situation when he is called to his uncle's castle.

RL: 6.0 | Middle Ages 500s | France | Catholic author

PEEK, SUSAN

The King's Prey: Saint Dymphna of Ireland

When St. Dymphna learns of her deranged father's plan, she flees across Ireland. With her estranged brother's help, Dymphna prays she will be able to escape her father's wicked desires.

RL: 6.0 | Middle Ages | 600s | Ireland | Catholic author

PATERSON, KATHERINE

Of Nightingales that Weep

The daughter of a Samurai finds herself torn between her loyalty to her people and her love for an enemy spy.

RL: 6.2 | Middle Ages | 1100s | Japan | Protestant author

SUTCLIFF, ROSEMARY

The Shining Company

Set in 6th century Britain during the time of the Anglo-Saxon invasion, we follow the story of Prosper, a young Welshman who joins the war band of King Mynyddog of Rheged. Through the war, Prosper learns of bravery, honor, and the bonds of brotherhood.

RL: 7.1 | Middle Ages | 600s | Britain

EBOCH, CHRIS

The Well of Sacrifice

A young Mayan girl's life is turned upside down when her father, a priest, discovers a plot against the king. As a result, her family is forced to flee into the dangerous jungle to escape the wrath of the king's enemies. Along the way, the young girl faces numerous challenges and dangers, including wild animals, hostile tribes, and treacherous terrain.

RL: 6.3 | Middle Ages | 800s | Central America



To register for a Kolbe Summer Reading Club and to learn about our Summer Reading Challenge visit kolbe.org/summer-reading-program

MCGRAW, ELOISE JARVIS

The Striped Ships

During a Norman invasion of her village, young Juliana is thrown into slavery and separated from her family. After much hardship, she finds peace working on the Bayeux Tapestry.

RL: 6.2 | Middle Ages | 1000s | England

SUTCLIFF, ROSEMARY

Tristan and Iseult

This tale revolves around the tragic love affair between Tristan, a knight of Cornwall, and Iseult, an Irish princess after consuming a love potion.

RL: 6.2 | Middle Ages | 1000s | England

SCOTT, WALTER

Ivanhoe

This story follows the journey of Jepp of Astraveld, a dwarf born into poverty in the Spanish Netherlands. Along the way, he learns important lessons about love, friendship, and the value of inner strength.

RL: 12.9 | Middle Ages | 1100s | England

ELIOT, T.S.

Murder in the Cathedral

A verse drama of the assassination of Archbishop Thomas Becket in his own cathedral by the knights of Henry II.

RL: 8.7 | Middle Ages | 1100s | England

MATTINGLY, GARRETT

Catherine of Aragon

A biography of Catherine of Aragon, daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, who was well educated and respected. As King Henry VIII's wife for twenty-four years, she became the victim of the great controversy of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.

RL: 9.3 | Middle Ages | 1500s | England

ANONYMOUS

The Poem of the Cid

An epic poem from medieval Spain telling of the adventures of Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar, who was banished from the court of King Alfonso but succeeded in having two daughters becoming queens.

Middle Ages | 1000s | Spain

1400s

KELLY, ERIC

The Trumpeter of Krakow

In 15th century Poland, a Ukrainian family sets off to escape the Russians who burned their home to the ground as they protect a mysterious treasure.

RL: 7.1 | Middle Ages | 1400s | Poland | Newbery Medal

1500s

O'DELL, SCOTT

The King's Fifth

Esteban, a teenage mapmaker from Spain, is awaiting trial for murder and refusing to give the Spanish Crown one-fifth of the gold he discovered. While he waits, he recounts the highs and lows of his adventures with the conquistadors.

RL: 5.5 | Exploration | 1500s | America | Newbery Honor

MARSH, KATHERINE

Jepp, Who Defied the Stars

This story follows the journey of Jepp of Astraveld, a dwarf born into poverty in the Spanish Netherlands. Along the way, he learns important lessons about love, friendship, and the value of inner strength.

RL: 6.9 | Middle Ages | 1500s | Europe

HAUGAARD, ERIK CHRISTIAN

The Samurai's Tale

The tale of a young boy named Taro, who survives a brutal attack on his village by samurai warriors. Left orphaned and alone, Taro is taken in by a renowned samurai named Lord Akiyama, who recognizes Taro's potential.

RL: 6.3 | Middle Ages | 1500s | Japan

1600s

MORRIS, GILBERT

The Honorable Imposter

(*The House of Winslow: Book 1*)

After living unhappily as a Church of England minister, Gilbert Winslow is offered the opportunity to make his fortune as a spy among some religious separatists. He easily infiltrates the community, but can he betray them when the time comes?

RL: 6.5 | Exploration | 1600s | America: MA | Protestant author

HAWES, CHARLES BOARDMAN

The Dark Frigate

Philip Marsham, an orphan, boards a ship to America to find safety, but when his ship is seized, he soon finds himself sailing with pirates along their nefarious adventures.

RL: 6.7 | Orphan Story | 1600s | England | Newbery Medal

DEFOE, DANIEL

Robinson Crusoe

Shipwrecked on an island, a young seaman must survive in the wilderness for nearly three decades.

RL: 12.3 | Survival | 1600s | Europe



1700s

KEEHN, SALLY M.

I Am Regina

At the beginning of the French and Indian War, Regina's family is killed by the Allegheny tribe and Regina is taken captive. The only other survivor is her mother, who was out of town during the attack. As Regina acclimates to the Allegheny way of life, she struggles to hold onto memories of her earlier life and wonders if she will ever see her mother again.

RL: 4.4 | Captive Narrative | 1700s | America: PA

BRONTE, EMILY

Wuthering Heights

Among the moors of 18th century England, the lives of two families become intertwined through the forces of marriage, passion, and revenge.

RL: 11.3 | Family Life | 1700s | England

MEIGS, CORNELIA

Clearing Weather

In the years after the Revolutionary War, young Nicholas Drury finds himself caring for his sick uncle while trying to keep the family shipbuilding business afloat. In a time of economic hardship, Nicholas meets new friends with a plan to restore their community's fortunes - if they survive.

RL: 8.4 | Family Life | 1700s | America

ANDERSON, LAURIE HALSE

Fever 1793

In 1793 Philadelphia, fourteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

RL: 4.4 | Frontier | 1700s | America: PA

DICKENS, CHARLES

A Tale of Two Cities

After eighteen years in a Bastille prison, Doctor Manette is released to the care of Lucie, the daughter he's never met. Set leading up to the French Revolution and subsequent Reign of Terror in London and Paris, Dickens weaves an unforgettable story about the atrocities of the era and the hope of resurrection.

RL: 9.7 | Religious Faith | 1700s | France/England

LE FORT, GERTRUD VON

The Song at the Scaffold

Blanche de la Force enters a Carmelite convent to avoid the perils of the Reign of Terror. But she soon discovers that life in the convent doesn't shield her from danger, and she must prepare to offer her life in martyrdom.

RL: 6.0 | Religious Faith | 1700s | France

RINALDI, ANN

Hang a Thousand Trees With Ribbons: The Story of Phillis Wheatley

After being sold into slavery as a child and brought to New England, Phillis becomes America's first published Black poet.

RL: 4.0 | Slavery | 1700s | America

1800s

AUSTEN, JANE

Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen's classic story takes place in the 19th century English countryside, and portrays the complexities of human relationships through the Bennet family. These complexities are particularly seen through the romantic complications of the independent and spirited Elizabeth Bennet and the proud yet mysterious Mr. Darcy.

RL: 12.0 | Family Life | 1800s | England

YEP, LAURENCE

The Serpent's Children

Cassia's father is a revolutionary in 19th century China, and her brother has run off to a faraway land in search of riches. Cassia will need to use all her wisdom and determination to survive the famine, drought, and violence that surround her family.

RL: 5.2 | Family Life | 1800s | China

GREGORY, KRISTIANA

The Legend of Jimmy Spoon
(*The Jimmy Spoon Series: Book 1*)

Jimmy Spoon is a twelve-year-old Mormon boy living in Utah who yearns for a life adventure. When two Shoshoni boys offer Jimmy a horse, he looks at it as an adventure and follows them. It turns out to be more than an adventure as he is welcomed into the Shoshoni tribe and is considered a member of Chief Washakie's family! Inspired by the memoirs of a white man who lived in Chief Washakie's tribe in the 1800s.

RL: 5.0 | Frontier | 1800s | America: UT | Protestant author

CLARK, WALTER VAN TILBURG

The Ox-Bow Incident

A vivid and emotional look at frontier life and mob violence in the Wild West, a posse captures and hangs three men believed to be guilty of cattle rustling and murder—only to learn later that the men were innocent.

RL: 5.4 | Frontier | 1800s | America



WISTER, OWEN

The Virginian

This classic novel tells the story of a Wyoming ranch foreman known only as the Virginian, his courtship of school teacher Molly Starkwood, and his encounters with the murdering cattle rustler, Trampas.

RL: 6.3 | Frontier | 1800s | America: WY

BURKS, BRIAN

Soldier Boy

A boy who grew up in the slums of late nineteenth-century Chicago runs away, joins the cavalry, and fights with General Custer in the Battle of Little Bighorn.

RL: 5.6 | Frontier | 1800s | America

MCCLUNG, ROBERT M.

Hugh Glass, Mountain Man

A fictionalized biography of the legendary hero of the Old West who, as a fur trapper in 1823, survived an attack by a grizzly bear.

RL: 6.2 | Frontier | 1800s | America

HOBBS, WILL

Down the Yukon

In the wake of Dawson City's Great Fire of 1899, sixteen-year-old Jason and his girlfriend, Jamie, canoe the Yukon River across Alaska in an epic race from Canada's Klondike to the new gold fields at Cape Nome.

RL: 5.4 | Frontier | 1800s | America: AK

HOBBS, WILL

Jason's Gold

When news of the 1897 discovery of gold in Canada's Yukon reaches fifteen-year-old Jason, he embarks on a 5000-mile journey to strike it rich.

RL: 5.5 | Frontier | 1800s | Canada



DURBIN, WILLIAM

The Broken Blade

Thirteen-year-old Pierre must take over his father's job as a voyager for the Northwest Fur Company so his family can survive the winter.

RL: 5.8 | Frontier | 1800s | Canada

KIPLING, RUDYARD

Captains Courageous

The story of a privileged young boy named Harvey Cheyne who falls overboard from an ocean liner and is rescued by a fishing boat. Thrown into a world of hard work, rough living conditions, and camaraderie, Harvey begins to undergo a transformation. He learns the value of manual labor, humility, and the importance of earning his keep.

RL: 8.0 | Modern | 1800s | Atlantic Ocean

STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUIS

Kidnapped

Set in 18th-century Scotland, this story follows the journey of young David Balfour as he faces treachery, betrayal, and danger.

RL: 7.6 | Modern | 1800s | England/Scotland

FLEISCHMAN, PAUL

Bull Run

The first battle of the Civil War is recounted by sixteen different participants, black and white, young and old, those living in the North and those in the South, those fighting the battle and those worrying at home.

RL: 5.3 | Non-Fiction | 1800s | America

DICKENS, CHARLES

Great Expectations

Pip, an orphan boy who is poor and bullied, dreams of better days in Victorian England. But when he's given the opportunity to reach his goals, he realizes that he may have left behind what he truly values in his pursuit of these "great expectations."

RL: 9.2 | Orphan Story | 1800s | England

DICKENS, CHARLES

Oliver Twist

Oliver Twist, an orphan, runs away from the workhouse to be taken in by a den of thieves. As he attempts to survive, his childhood innocence is threatened by the criminal ways of those around him.

RL: 11.3 | Orphan Story | 1800s | England

DEFELICE, CYNTHIA

The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker

It's 1849 and Lucas's whole family has just died from consumption. As he takes the role of apprentice under Doc Beecher, he confronts his own guilt over not saving his mother from the disease and learns the difference between vampiric superstition and the science of medicine.

RL: 5.2 | Orphan Story | 1800s | America

NAPOLI, DONNA JO

Hunger: A Tale of Courage

In Ireland in 1846, twelve-year-old Lorraine is eager for this year's potato crop to provide food and money to her family after last year's failure. But when the potatoes come up ruined once again, she and her family grow hopeless. As hunger and desperation increase, Lorraine has a chance encounter with a wealthy English neighbor girl, who she's not supposed to befriend but who may very well hold the key to her family's survival.

RL: 3.9 | Potato Famine | 1800s | Ireland

PATERSON, KATHERINE

Rebels of the Heavenly Kingdom

During the Taiping Rebellion in the mid-nineteenth century, fifteen-year-old Wang Lee is abducted into a Christian secret rebel group determined to overthrow the Manchu government.

RL: 6.0 | Religious Faith | 1800s | China | Protestant author

CATHER, WILLA

Death Comes for the Archbishop

French Bishop Jean Marie Latour and American vicar Joseph Vaillant set out to convert the people in New Mexico and build a diocese in the late nineteenth century. But while it is a land American in name, it is Indian and Mexican in custom, and even the clergy who are supposed to be helping prove to be obstacles.

RL: 7.9 | Religious Faith | 1800s | America: NM

CARBONE, ELISA

Stealing Freedom

Twelve-year-old Ann Maria has only ever known the cruel life of hard labor under her master, but at least she has known it with her family by her side. But when she wakes up one day to discover them gone, she sets out on a journey through the Underground Railroad to find them—and freedom.



RL: 5.6 | Slavery | 1800s | America: MD

STOWE, HARRIET BEECHER

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Following several characters as they endure beatings for heroically sticking to their beliefs, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, upheld for its historical and literary significance, depicts the atrocities of slavery and the incompatibility of it with Christian morality and American ideals.

RL: 9.3 | US Civil War | 1800s | America

TWIN, MARK

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

(Adventures of Tom and Huck: Book 2)

Huck Finn and Jim, an escaped slave, travel down the Mississippi River toward freedom, encountering many adventures along the way. The plot contains profanity and racial slurs.

RL: 6.6 | US Civil War | 1800s | America: MO

STEELE, WILLIAM O.

The Perilous Road

Upset with the Yankees for infiltrating his Tennessee home during the Civil War, fourteen-year-old Chris discloses information about Yankee approach to the Confederates. But when he learns his brother is likely part of the Yankee troop, he must grapple with his actions.

RL: 4.7 | US Civil War | 1800s | America | Newbery Honor

MITCHELL, MARGARET

Gone with the Wind

Living on a plantation in the South during the Civil War, Scarlett O'Hara wants nothing more than for her love of Ashley to be reciprocated. But when he becomes engaged to another woman and her home is threatened, her life becomes complicated.

RL: 7.1 | US Civil War | 1800s | America

DOSTOYEVSKY, FYODOR

Crime and Punishment

Raskolnikov, an ex-student, commits a random murder in St. Petersburg to free himself from poverty. He rationalizes that some actions can be moral depending on the ends and intentions. But after the murder is committed, he is plagued by regrets and a heavy conscience and seeks to reconcile his actions with the consequences.

RL: 8.7 | Historical Fiction | 1800s | Russia

1900s

DE TREVINO, ELIZABETH BORTON

My Heart Lies South: Young People's Edition

This vivid autobiography tells the story of a 1930s American journalist who falls in love and becomes a wife in provincial Monterrey, Mexico. She shares the often-funny stories of adapting to the culture, customs, and people in her new home.

RL: 7.4 | Family Life 1900s | Mexico

BRADBURY, RAY

Dandelion Wine

This semi-autobiographical novel tells the story of 12-year-old Douglas Spaulding, and the simple joys and magic of Green Town, Illinois in the summer of 1928.

RL: 6.0 | Family Life | 1900s | America: IL

To know what happened we read history books, but to understand it, we must read historical fiction.



STAPLES, SUZANNE FISHER

Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind

Eleven-year-old Shabanu is a strong-willed Pakistani girl, and as the youngest daughter in a family with no sons she has been given more freedom than most Muslim girls her age. But Shabanu soon finds herself in a situation where she could bring her family wealth and prestige, if she is willing to sacrifice her dreams.

RL: 5.9 | Family Life | 1900s | Pakistan | Newbery Honor

BUCK, PEARL S.

The Good Earth

The Pulitzer Prize winning novel about a peasant family in 1920s China who survive famine, drought, and war and make their way to become prosperous landowners.

RL: 6.8 | Family Life | 1900s | China | Pulitzer Prize

NESBIT, ELIZABETH

The Railway Children

Roberta, Phyllis, and Peter live a comfortable and genteel life, until one day men arrive and take their father away. They are forced to move to a simple country cottage next to a railway station, where their days are filled with excitement and adventure. But every day they wonder: what happened to their father?

RL: 5.5 | Family Life 1900s | England

BARAKAT, IBTISAM

Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood

A powerful memoir in which Palestinian writer Ibtisam Barakat recounts her childhood in the aftermath of the Six-Day War of 1967. Though her early life is marked by bombs, family separation, and life as a refugee, Barakat finds refuge in words, language, and storytelling.

RL: 5.8 | Family Life | 1900s | Middle East | Pulitzer Prize

LARSON, KIRBY

Hattie Big Sky

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

RL: 4.4 | Frontier | 1900s | America: MT | Newbery Honor

HUNT, IRENE

No Promises in the Wind

Fifteen-year-old Josh dreams of food to eat, a place to sleep, and shoes without holes. But even those dreams feel lofty in the Great Depression. As he moves through the country among hopeless people, he tries to make a life for himself.

RL: 5.6 | Great Depression | 1900s | America

YEP, LAURENCE

Dragonwings

Moon Shadow knows only two things about his father: that he lives in San Francisco and that he used to make breathtaking kites. So, when Moon Shadow receives an invitation around his eighth birthday to leave China and join his dad, he jumps at the chance to get to know him. There, he discovers his dad's dreams of crafting a flying apparatus like the Wright Brothers, though making the dream a reality requires surviving intolerance, poverty, and even an earthquake.

RL: 5.3 | Immigrants | 1900s | America | Newbery Honor

LAI, THANHÀ

Butterfly Yellow

Six years ago, Hang's little brother was torn away from her as they sought safety from a war-torn Vietnam. Now both in America, Hang reunites with her brother only to discover he doesn't remember their home—or her. Hang must find a way to restore their relationship before she loses her family forever.

RL: 5.4 | Immigrants | 1900s | Vietnam/America | Scott O'Dell Award

LAIRD, ELIZABETH

Kiss the Dust

When the Iraqi secret police come for her father, twelve-year-old Tara and her family must flee Iraq to take refuge in the mountains of Kurdistan. As they long for a home of their own, they must face bombings, moves to different refugee camps in Iran and England, and fighting.

RL: 5.1 | Immigrants | 1900s | Iraq/Iran

DOWD, SIOBHAN

Bog Child

In 1981, Fergus McCann, a teenage boy who discovers the body of a girl preserved in a peat bog. Fergus must confront his own beliefs and prejudices as he grapples with the complexities of history and the present-day struggles of those around him.

RL: 3.9 | Modern | 1900s | Ireland

GREGORY, KRISTIANA

Earthquake at Dawn

Based on photographer Edith Irvin's experiences in the aftermath of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, it gives a fictional account of the city's devastation and the courage of its citizens.

RL: 5.5 | Modern | 1900s | America: CA | Protestant author

MARSHALL, CATHERINE

Christy

A young woman, Christy, trades what is familiar for a new life of teaching in the remote Smoky Mountains. She finds her new home to be full of challenges to her way of life and beliefs.

RL: 6.2 | Modern | 1900s | America: TN | Protestant author

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MEIGS, CORNELIA

Swift Rivers

After being left with his grandfather to weather a Minnesota winter in a log cabin, Chris faces poverty and hardship. But when he hears of an opportunity to earn money, he jumps on it. Along with a friend, he chops down trees on their property and moves logs down the Mississippi River to sell in St. Louis, meeting friends and criminals along the way.

RL: 7.0 | Modern | 1900s | America | Newbery Honor

STRATTON-PORTER, GENE

A Girl of the Limberlost
(*Limberlost: Book 2*)

Sixteen-year-old Elnora lives in Indiana's Limberlost swamp, where she wants to win her mother's affections. As she grows up, she must collect moth specimens to pay her way through school and suffer the disappointment of meeting a charming young man who is already engaged, all with a positive attitude.

RL: 6.1 | Modern | 1900s | America: IN

BRAITHWAITE, E.R.

To Sir With Love

When a black teacher takes over a classroom of defiant delinquents, he wrestles with their prejudices and disrespect. But when he holds them to high standards and teaches them integrity and respect, he's amazed to find them changing their ways.

RL: 7.5 | Modern | 1900s | England

O'NEILL, JOE

Rebels of the Kasbah
(*The Red Hand Adventures: Book 1*)

Twelve-year-old Tariq is used to surviving on his own wits and bravery, especially since he's grown up in colonial Morocco without a family. But when he awakens one morning in a dark prison cell with other children—kidnapped and about to be sold—he must do more than survive. He and his new friends must find a way to escape.

RL: 5.4 | Modern | 1900s | Africa: Morocco

NYE, NAOMI SHIHAB

Habibi

The day after fourteen-year-old Liyana receives her first kiss, she moves to Jerusalem, where her father was born. Mourning the loss of her life back in St. Louis, Liyana doesn't know what to think about a new land, a family she's never met, and her Arab heritage. Then she meets Omer, who makes her feel at home, but there's one problem—he's Jewish, and befriending him is strictly forbidden.

RL: 5.2 | Modern | 1900s | Israel

WATSON, JAMES

The Freedom Tree

In 1936, Spain is engulfed in Civil War. Too young to join the International Brigade, sixteen-year-old Will joins the Six Bells Brigade to fight the Fascists, just like his dad. But he soon learns the Republican party is disorganized and ill-trained, forcing him and the rest of the group to gain great courage and optimism.

RL: 5.0 | Modern | 1900s | Spain

BRUCHAC, JOSEPH

Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two

Ned Begay is taught that his Navajo heritage should be forgotten as he assimilates to the white culture around him. But as the fight against Japan builds, a group of Navajo boys become Code Talkers in World War II, sending messages in code using the Navajo language. As Ned dares to serve the Marines in the fight against Japan, he and his fellow Code Talkers still face horror and a history of abuses.

RL: 6.4 | Native American | 1900s | America

IBTISAM, BARAKAT

Tasting the Sky: a Palestinian Childhood

In her memoir, Ibtisam recounts the aftermath of the Six-Day War in Ramallah and the fallout that followed as a child refugee.

RL: 5.8 | Non-Fiction | 1900s | Middle East

BARRETT, WILLIAM

Lilies of the Field

When a black ex-GI comes across a group of German nuns in the Southwest trying to build a church, the wanderer is compelled to stay and help them.

RL: 5.4 | Religious Faith | 1900s | America: CO | Catholic author

PATON, ALAN

Cry, the Beloved Country

The most famous novel in South Africa's history about an African country under white man's law.

RL: 6.2 | Religious Faith | 1900s | Africa | Protestant author

HOH, DIANE

Titanic: The Long Night
(*Titanic Series: Book 1*)

First-class passenger Elizabeth wants to attend college and choose her own husband in America, not marry the businessman her parents chose. Katie, third-class passenger and Irish immigrant, dreams of becoming a musician in New York City, though she falls for another Irish immigrant with dreams that may interfere with her own. But when the Titanic hits an iceberg, Katie and Elizabeth realize the unsinkable ship is sinking—without enough lifeboats for all the passengers—and the two must face a grim reality that they may not survive to see a future at all.

RL: 5.9 | Modern | 1900s | Atlantic Ocean | Protestant author

DALY, MAUREEN

The Small War of Sergeant Donkey

Living in Italy during World War II, Chico misses his family, his farm, and his animals taken by the Germans years ago. When he discovers the American Remount Depot, where thousands of supply mules and donkeys are processed and sent to the fighting in the mountains, he becomes attached to an animal he names Sergeant Donkey and follows him into danger.

RL: 6.8 | WWII | 1900s | Italy

REISS, JOHANNA

The Upstairs Room (*The Upstairs Room: Book 1*)

An autobiographical novel about eight-year-old Annie, who left her family and went into hiding for two years in a farmhouse in Holland with her sister to survive Nazi troops during World War II.

RL: 2.9 | WWII | 1900s | Holland | Newbery Honor

BRADLEY, KIMBERLY BRUBAKER

For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy

Thirteen-year-old Suzanne dreams of becoming an opera singer, hardly noticing the Nazi occupation in France around her. But when she witnesses the death of her neighbor from a German bombing and is subsequently forced from her home, she joins the French Resistance as one of their youngest spies. Based on a real story.

RL: 4.0 | WWII | 1900s | France

BOYNE, JOHN

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (*The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: Book 1*)

At nine years old, Bruno moves with his family to a desolate place in Poland with a fence separating his home from a community of people in striped pajamas. At first, Bruno thinks he's stuck in a boring new home, but when he starts exploring, he meets one of the boys in the striped pajamas and uncovers a whole secret tragedy unfolding in his backyard—and his own family. Text contains violence and ethnic slurs.

RL: 5.8 | WWII | 1900s | Poland

ALMAGOR, GILA

Under the Domim Tree

In an Israeli village in 1953, Aviya and her friends grieve over lost loved ones and struggle to build a new life after the Holocaust.

RL: 5.3 | WWII | 1900s | Israel

PREUS, MARGI

Shadow on the Mountain: A Novel Inspired by the True Adventures of a Wartime Spy

Based on the real-life adventures of a Norwegian spy, this story follows fourteen-year-old Espen as he embarks on increasingly dangerous spy missions in Nazi-occupied Norway.

RL: 5.0 | WWII | 1900s | Norway

SERRAILLIER, IAN

Escape from Warsaw (*Or, The Silver Sword*)

After their mother is arrested by Nazis, three siblings in Warsaw struggle to find food and shelter as war rages around them. When they discover their father is alive in Switzerland, they set out on a dangerous journey to find him.

RL: 5.5 | WWII | 1900s | Poland

NAPOLI, DONNA JO

Stones in Water (*Stones in Water: Book 1*)

When Italian boy Roberto is captured by German soldiers and packed onto a train to a brutal work camp, he bands together with the other boys to survive and ultimately to try to escape.

RL: 4.2 | WWII | 1900s | Europe



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Summer Camps

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Book Club Camp K-2: Beatrix Potter	Book Club Camp 6-8: Crusader King
Book Club Camp K-2: Fairy Tales	Book Club Camp 6-8: The Good Master
Book Club Camp K-2: Aesop's Fables	Math 5 Readiness
Book Club Camp K-2: Josephine Nobisso	Creative Writing Camp 6-8
Math Fact Bootcamp 1-2	Composition Bootcamp 6-8
Reading Fluency Bootcamp 2-4	Spanish Camp
Spelling Bootcamp 2-4	Book Club Camp 6-8: Treasure Island
Book Club Camp 2-4: Stuart Little	Math 6 Readiness
Baking Class 3-8	STEAM Camp
Cooking Class 3-9	Middle School Success Skills
Faith & Legos 3-5	Introduction to Coding
Grammar Bootcamp 3-4	Grammar Bootcamp 7-8
Composition Bootcamp 3-5	Math 7/8 Readiness
Book Club Camp 3-5: Dragonspell	Creative Writing Camp 9-12
Book Club Camp 3-5: Amos Fortune Free Man	Linguistics Camp
Book Club Camp 3-5: The Borrowers	Book Club Camp 9-12: Perelandra
Book Club Camp 3-5: Book of Three	Book Club Camp 9-12: Short Stories
Book Club Camp 3-5: Farmer Boy	Book Club Camp 9-12: Shadow of His Wings
Book Club Camp 3-5: Redwall	Algebra 1 Readiness
Book Club Camp 3-5: Indian in the Cupboard	Study Skills 9-12
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