



Historical Fiction

Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library A Selective Annotated Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

Grade Level	Title Information	Call Number
EASY		
PreK - 3	Barron, T.A. <i>High as a Hawk: A Brave Girl's Historic Climb</i> . New York: Philomel Books, 2004. In 1905, eight-year-old Harriet Peters fulfills her dead mother's dream by climbing Long's Peak in Colorado with the help of an old mountain guide, Enos Mills. Based on a true story.	E B2785H
K – 3	Beebe, Katy. <i>Brother Hugo and the Bear</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2014. After painstakingly handcrafting a replacement copy of a library book, a medieval monk tries to protect it from a hungry bear with a taste for literature. Includes historical note on illuminated manuscripts.	E B39155B
4 - 6	Bryan, Ashley. <i>Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life</i> . New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2016. Using original slave auction and plantation estate documents, contrasts the monetary value of a slave with the priceless value of life experiences and dreams that a slave owner could never take away.	E B8401F

- 3 - 8 Cole, Henry, and Marijka Kostiw. *Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2012. E
C6749U
- In this wordless picture book, a young Southern farm girl discovers a runaway slave hiding behind the corn crib in the barn and decides to help him.
- 1 - 4 Fleischman, Paul. *The Matchbox Diary*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2013. E
F6284M
- Follow a girl's perusal of her great-grandfather's collection of matchboxes and small curios that document his poignant immigration journey from Italy to a new country.
- 2 - 4 Fleming, Candace. *Papa's Mechanical Fish*. New York: Margaret Ferguson Books, 2013. E
F62921P
- In the summer of 1851, with encouragement and ideas provided by his family, an inventor builds a working submarine and takes his family for a ride. Includes notes about Lodner Phillips, the real inventor on whom the story is based.
- 3 - 6 Grimes, Nikki. *Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony, inspired by historical facts*. New York: Orchard Books, 2015. E
G8823CH
- In this imaginative biographical story, Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony sit down over a cup of tea in 1904 to reminisce about their struggles and triumphs in the service of freedom and women's rights.
- K - 3 Hagar, Erin. *Doing Her Bit: A Story About the Women's Land Army of America*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2016. E
H1205D
- Based on true events, this fictional story traces the history of the Women's Land Army during World War I. Real-life "Farmerette" Helen Stevens trains to farm the land, negotiates a position for herself and other women, and does her bit for the war effort.
- 3 - 5 Hopkinson, Deborah. *Independence Cake: A Revolutionary Confection Inspired by Amelia Simmons, Whose True Story is Unfortunately Unknown*. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2017. E
H7773I
- In this fictional story, Amelia Simmons, writer of the first American cookbook, creates an Independence Cake in 1789 to offer the newly elected President, George Washington.
- K - 2 Jenkins, Emily. *A Fine Dessert: Four Centuries, Four Families, One Delicious Treat*. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2015. E
J4159FIN
- Depicts families, from England to California and from 1710 to 2010, preparing

and enjoying the dessert called blackberry fool.

- K - 4 Jiang, Ji-li. *Red Kite, Blue Kite*. New York: Disney/Hyperion Books, 2013. E
J562R
- When Tai Shan and his father, Baba, are separated during China's Cultural Revolution, they are able to stay close by greeting one another every day with flying kites until Baba, like the kites, is free.
- 2 - 4 Kim, Gyeong-hwa. *Leather Shoe Charlie*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2017. E
K5602L
- Charlie's dream of becoming a cobbler is threatened when his family moves to Manchester during the Industrial Revolution.
- 2 - 4 Krensky, Stephen. *Hanukkah at Valley Forge*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2006. E
K882H
- During the Revolutionary War, a Jewish soldier from Poland lights the menorah on the first night of Hanukkah and tells General George Washington the story of the Maccabees and the miracle that Hanukkah celebrates. Based on factual events.
- 3 - 6 Lee, Milly. *Landed*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2006. E
L5145L
- After leaving his village in southeastern China, twelve-year-old Sun is held at Angel Island, San Francisco, before being released to join his father, a merchant living in the area.
- 1 - 2 Lewis, Amey. *Nipper of Drayton Hall*. Columbia, SC: The University of South Carolina Press, 2015. E
L5851N
- Join Nipper, an energetic little dog, and his beloved Charlotta Drayton as they travel from Charleston's Battery to historic Drayton Hall and spend a spring day in 1916.
- 1 - 3 Lyons, Kelly Starling. *Hope's Gift*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2012. E
L9953H
- A runaway slave during the Civil War, Hope's father returns after the Emancipation Proclamation as a member of the U.S. Colored Troops.
- 1 - 3 Malaspina, Ann. *Finding Lincoln*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 2009. E
M2914F
- In segregated 1950s Alabama, Louis cannot use the public library to research a class assignment, but one of the librarians lets him in after hours and helps him find the book that he needs.

- 1 - 5 Mason, Margaret H, and Floyd Cooper. *These Hands*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2010. E
M3815T
- An African American man tells his grandson about a time when, despite all the wonderful things his hands could do, they could not touch bread at the Wonder Bread factory.
- 1 - 3 Meyer, Susan Lynn. *New Shoes*. New York: Holiday House, 2015. E
M57585N
- In this historical fiction picture book, Ella Mae and her cousin Charlotte, both African American, start their own shoe store when they learn that they cannot try on shoes at the shoe store.
- 1 - 2 Michelson, Richard. *Busing Brewster*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. E
M58266B
- Bused across town to a school in a white neighborhood of Boston in 1974, a young African American boy named Brewster describes his first day in first grade.
- K - 2 Miller, Pat Zietlow. *The Quickest Kid in Clarksville*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2016. E
M61715Q
- Growing up in the segregated town of Clarksville, Tennessee, in the 1960s, Alta's family cannot afford to buy her new sneakers--but she still plans to attend the parade celebrating her hero Wilma Rudolph's three Olympic gold medals.
- K - 2 Nethery, Mary, and John Manders. *The Famous Nini: A Mostly True Story of How a Plain White Cat Became a Star*. Boston: Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010. E
N382F
- In Venice, Italy, in the 1890s, a stray cat draws attention to a coffee shop in which he inspired composer Guiseppi Verdi, and as the feline's fame grows, the shop's owner entertains royalty, the Pope, and many others.
- K - 3 Olshan, Matthew. *A Voyage in the Clouds: The (Mostly) True Story of the First International Flight by Balloon in 1785*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2016. E
OL83V
- Dr. John Jeffries and his pilot, Jean-Pierre Blanchard, each want to be the first man to fly from one country to another, across the English Channel. There's only one problem: they can't stand each other! Inspired by the true story of the first international flight.
- 2 - 5 Philbrick, Nathaniel. *Ben's Revolutions: Benjamin Russell and the Battle* E

- of Bunker Hill*. New York: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2017. P534B
- Twelve-year-old Benjamin Russell of Boston experiences the Revolutionary War from the Boston Tea Party of 1773 through the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Includes historical note.
- K - 3 Polacco, Patricia. *Fiona's Lace*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014. E
P7569FI
- Emigrating from Ireland to America, Fiona's family settles in Chicago, where Fiona's handmade lace keeps the family together during a devastating fire.
- 2 - 4 Ramsey, Calvin Alexander. *Ruth and the Green Book*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 2010. E
R1493R
- When Ruth and her parents take a motor trip from Chicago to Alabama to visit her grandma, they rely on a pamphlet called "The Negro Motorist Green Book" to find places that will serve them.
- 2 - 4 Rockliff, Mara, and Ann Tanksley. *My Heart Will Not Sit Down*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. E
R592MY
- In 1931 Cameroon, young Kedi is upset to learn that children in her American teacher's village of New York are going hungry because of the Great Depression, and she asks her mother, neighbors, and even the headman for money to help.
- K - 3 Stewart, Sarah, and David Small. *The Quiet Place*. New York: Margaret Ferguson Books, 2012. E
ST498Q
- A little girl moves to the United States from Mexico with her family and writes letters to her aunt in Mexico about her new life.
- 2 - 5 Tuck, Pamela M. *As Fast as Words Can Fly*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2013. E
T793AS
- A thirteen-year-old African American boy in 1960s Greenville, North Carolina, uses his typing skills to make a statement as part of the Civil Rights movement. Based on true events.
- 1 - 5 Uhlberg, Myron. *The Sound of All Things*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers, 2016. E
UH6SO
- A hearing boy and his deaf parents from Brooklyn enjoy the rides, food, and sights of 1930's Coney Island where the father longs to know about how everything sounds and his son tries to interpret the noisy surroundings through sign language and a wealth of new words learned from a trip to the library.

- 2 - 4 Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Sugar Hill: Harlem's Historic Neighborhood*. Chicago, IL: Albert Whitman & Company. 2004. (Also by author: *Freedom in Congo Square*) E
W3784S

Rhyming text celebrates the Harlem neighborhood that successful African Americans first called home during the 1920s.

- 2 - 5 Weber, Elka. *The Yankee at the Seder*. Berkeley: Tricycle Press, 2009. E
W3883Y

As a Confederate family prepares for Passover the day after the Civil War has ended, a Yankee arrives on their Virginia doorstep and is invited to share their meal, to the dismay of ten-year-old Jacob.

FICTION

- 7 - 12 Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Ashes*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2016. (Book two in the *Seeds of America* trilogy) F
AN2394A

As the Revolutionary War rages on, Isabel and Curzon are reported as runaways, and the awful Bellingham is determined to track them down. With purpose and faith, Isabel and Curzon march on, fiercely determined to find Isabel's little sister Ruth, who is enslaved in a Southern state.

- 5 - 9 Avi. *Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution*. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2012. F
AV51SOP

In 1776, after witnessing the execution of Nathan Hale in New York City, newly occupied by the British army, young Sophia Calderwood resolves to do all she can to help the American cause, including becoming a spy.

- 8 - 12 Bass, Karen. *Uncertain Soldier*. Toronto: Pajama Press Inc., 2015. F
B2936U

It is World War II. Erich, a young German prisoner of war who dislikes Nazism, and Max, the twelve-year-old son of German immigrants, become friends when Erich is sent to work at a Canadian logging camp near Max's town. But with a saboteur haunting the logging camp and anti-German feeling running high in town, their friendship puts them both in danger.

- 5 - 8 Brandeis, Gayle. *My Life with the Lincolns*. New York: Henry Holt and Co, 2010. F
B73345M

In 1966 Illinois, twelve-year-old Wilhelmina, convinced that she, her parents, and sisters are Abraham Lincoln's family reincarnated, determines to keep them from suffering the same fates, which is complicated when she and her father become involved in the civil rights movement.

- 10 - 12 Bray, Libba. *The Diviners*. New York: Little, Brown, 2012. F
B7393DI
- Seventeen-year-old Evie O'Neill is thrilled when she is exiled from small-town Ohio to New York City in 1926, even when a rash of occult-based murders thrusts Evie and her uncle, curator of The Museum of American Folklore, Superstition, and the Occult, into the thick of the investigation.
- 4 - 12 Brown, Skila. *Caminar*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2014. F
B8152C
- Carlos knows that when the soldiers arrive with warnings about the Communist rebels, it is time to be a man and defend the village, keep everyone safe. But Mama tells him not yet -- he's still her quiet moonfaced boy.
- 8 - 12 Davies, Jacqueline. *Lost*. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish, 2009. F
D2875LO
- In 1911 New York, sixteen-year-old Essie Rosenfeld must stop taking care of her irrepressible six-year-old sister when she goes to work at the Triangle Waist Company, where she befriends a missing heiress who is in hiding from her family and who seems to understand the feelings of heartache and grief that Essie is trying desperately to escape.
- K - 3 Deary, Terry. *The Actor, The Rebel, And The Wrinkled Queen*. F
Minneapolis: Picture Window Books, 2006. (Other titles from series: D348A
The Gold In The Grave, The Magic And The Mummy, The Maid, the Witch, and the Cruel Queen, The Phantom And The Fisherman, The Plot On The Pyramid, The Prince, The Cook, And The Cunning King, The Thief, The Fool, And The Big Fat King)
- A young actor at the Globe Theatre must defend his master when Queen Elizabeth suspects that Shakespeare tried to help the Earl of Essex overthrow her.
- 4 - 7 Dinerstein, Eric. *What Elephants Know*. New York: Disney-Hyperion, 2016. F
D6125W
- In the threatened jungle of the Borderlands between Nepal and India during the 1970s, an orphaned boy discovers his fate as a great elephant driver.
- 2 - 4 Elvgren, Jennifer. *The Whispering Town*. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2014. E
EL86W

In Denmark during World War II, young Annet, her parents, and their neighbors help a Jewish family hide from Nazi soldiers until it is safe for them to leave Annet's basement.

5 - 9 Flood, Bo. *Warriors in the Crossfire*. Honesdale, PA: Front Street, 2010. F
F6589W

Twelve-year-old Joseph helps his family to survive when the natives of Saipan are caught in the crossfire between the Japanese soldiers and the American troops at the end of World War II.

N/A Grenville, Kate. *The Secret River*. New York: Canongate, 2005. F
G886S

In 1806 William Thornhill, an illiterate English bargeman and a man of quick temper but deep compassion, steals a load of wood and, as a part of his lenient sentence, is deported, along with his beloved wife, Sal, to the New South Wales colony in what would become Australia.

2 - 3 Gunderson, Jessica. *The Jade Dragon: A Story of Ancient China*. Minneapolis, MN: Picture Window Books, 2009. F
G955J

Zhou never seems to beat his brother, Cheng, at anything. But when Zhou finds a jade dragon, his luck changes. Soon, Zhou is beating Cheng at everything. Will Zhou and his jade dragon be able to keep up the winning streak, or will he lose his luck?

5 - 8 Holbrook, Sara. *The Enemy: Detroit, 1954*. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2017. F
H686E

Set in 1954, this compelling historical novel tells the story of a young girl's struggles and triumphs in the aftermath of World War II. The war is over, but the threat of communism and the Cold War loom over the United States. In Detroit, Michigan, twelve-year-old Marjorie Campbell struggles with the ups and downs of family life, dealing with her veteran father's unpredictable outbursts, keeping her mother's stash of banned library books a secret, and getting along with her new older "brother", the teenager her family took in after his veteran father's death.

8 - 12 Iturbe, Antonio. *The Librarian of Auschwitz*. New York: Godwin Books, 2017. F
IT8L

Based on the experience of real-life Auschwitz prisoner Dita Kraus, this is the incredible story of a girl who risked her life to keep the magic of books alive during the Holocaust. Fourteen-year-old Dita is one of the many imprisoned by the Nazis at Auschwitz. Taken, along with her mother and father, from the Terezín ghetto in Prague, Dita is adjusting to the constant terror that is life in the camp. When Jewish leader Freddy Hirsch asks Dita to take charge of the

eight precious volumes the prisoners have managed to sneak past the guards, she agrees. And so Dita becomes the librarian of Auschwitz.

- 2 - 3 Jacobson, Darlene Beck. *Wheels of Change*. Berkeley, CA: Creston Books, LLC, 2014. F
J157W
- Twelve-year-old Emily Soper avoids her mother's efforts to make her more ladylike by watching her father and his workers build fine carriages in Washington, D.C., but 1908 is a turbulent time and her father's livelihood threatened by racist neighbors and the growing popularity of automobiles.
- 9 - 12 Jansen, Hanna. *Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 2006. F
J266O
- The only survivor of her family's massacre, Jeanne witnessed unspeakable acts. But through courage, wits, and sheer force of will, she survived. Based on a true story, this haunting novel by Jeanne's adoptive mother makes unforgettably real the events of the 1994 Rwandan genocide as one family experienced it.
- 10 - 12 Kacer, Kathy. *Stones on a Grave*. Victoria, British Columbia: Orca Book Publishers, 2015. F
K113S
- Sara has never been out of the tiny town of Hope, Ontario, where she has been in an orphanage all her life. After a fire destroys the orphanage, clues about her parentage, a medical certificate and a Star of David, lead her to Germany. Despite her fears, she doesn't speak the language, she knows no one in Germany, and she's never been on an airplane, Sara arrives in Germany determined to explore her newly discovered Jewish heritage and solve the mystery of her parentage.
- 7 - 10 Ketchum, Liza. *The Life Fantastic: A Novel in Three Acts*. Blue Ash, OH: Merit Press, 2017. F
K497L
- In 1913, Teresa dreams of leaving her life in Vermont, hitting the road to join a vaudeville troop, and sing in theaters across the country. Running away to New York, she becomes friends with Pietro, a talented African American dancer. But at a time when young black men could be lynched just for looking at a white girl, there are dangers in their relationship.
- 7 - 12 Landman, Tanya. *Buffalo Soldier*. London: Walker Books, 2014. F
L2357B
- At the end of the American Civil War, Charley - a young African-American slave from the deep south - is ostensibly freed. But then her adopted mother is raped and lynched at the hands of a mob and Charley is left alone. In a

terrifyingly lawless land, where the colour of a person's skin can bring violent death, Charley disguises herself as a man and joins the army.

- 6 - 12 Lee, Stacey. *Outrun the Moon*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2016. F
L5157O
- On the eve of the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, Mercy Wong--daughter of Chinese immigrants--is struggling to hold her own among the spoiled heiresses at prestigious St. Clare's School. When tragedy strikes, everyone must band together to survive.
- 6 - 9 Levine, Kristin. *The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2009. F
L5787B
- In Moundville, Alabama, in 1917, twelve-year-old Dit hopes the new postmaster will have a son his age, but instead he meets Emma, who is black, and their friendship challenges accepted ways of thinking and leads them to save the life of a condemned man.
- 8 - 12 McCormick, Patricia. *Never Fall Down: A Novel*. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2012. F
M1375N
- When soldiers arrive in his hometown, Arn is just a normal little boy. But after the soldiers march the entire population into the countryside, his life is changed forever. Arn is separated from his family and assigned to a labor camp: working in the rice paddies under a blazing sun, he sees the other children dying before his eyes. One day, the soldiers ask if any of the kids can play an instrument. Arn's never played a note in his life, but he volunteers. This decision will save his life, but it will pull him into the very center of what we know today as the Killing Fields. And just as the country is about to be liberated, Arn is handed a gun and forced to become a soldier.
- 6 - 9 Magoon, Kekla. *Fire in the Streets*. New York: Aladdin, 2012. (Part of series with *The Rock* and *The River*) F
M27583F
- In the aftermath of Dr. King's assassination in 1968, Chicago fourteen-year-old Maxie longs to join the Black Panthers, whether or not her brother Raheem, ex-boyfriend Sam, or her friends like it, and is soon caught up in the violence of anti-war and civil rights demonstrations.
- 6 - 9 Mayo, Matthew P. *Stranded: A Story of Frontier Survival*. Waterville, ME: Five Star Publishing, 2017. F
M4547S
- In autumn, 1849, 14-year-old Janette Riker travels westward to Oregon Territory with her father and two brothers. Before crossing the Rockies, they stop briefly to hunt buffalo. The men leave camp early on the second day ... and never return. Based on actual events, and told in diary format, *Stranded* is the harrowing account of young Janette Riker's struggle to survive the long winter alone.

- 6 - 9 Naidoo, Beverley. *Burn My Heart*. New York: Amistad, 2009. F
N1431B
- Two boys--one white, one black--share an uneasy friendship in Kenya in the 1950s, a country shaken by a rebellion of Africans against white landowners, but suspicions and accusations are escalating, and an act of betrayal could change everything.
- 5 - 8 Peck, Richard. *A Season of Gifts*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2009. F
P3364SEA
- Relates the surprising gifts bestowed on twelve-year-old Bob Barnhart and his family, who have recently moved to a small Illinois town in 1958, by their larger-than-life neighbor, Mrs. Dowdel.
- 8 - 12 Powell, Patricia Hruby. *Loving vs. Virginia: A Documentary Novel of the Landmark Civil Rights Case*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2017. F
P87156L
- Written in blank verse, the story of Mildred Loving, an African American girl, and Richard Loving, a Caucasian boy, who challenge the Virginia law forbidding interracial marriages in the 1950s.
- 6 - 9 Schiltz, Laura Amy. *The Hired Girl*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2015. F
SCH394H
- Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs, just like the heroines in her beloved novels, yearns for real life and true love. But what hope is there for adventure, beauty, or art on a hardscrabble farm in Pennsylvania where the work never ends? Over the summer of 1911, Joan pours her heart out into her diary as she seeks a new, better life for herself -- because maybe, just maybe, a hired girl cleaning and cooking for six dollars a week can become what a farm girl could only dream of -- a woman with a future.
- 8 - 12 Sepetys, Ruta. *Salt to the Sea*. New York: Philomel Books, 2016. F
SE61S
- As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.
- N/A Solomon, Asali. *Disgruntled*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015. F
SO472D
- Kenya Curtis is only eight years old, but she knows that she's different, even if she can't put her finger on how or why. It's not because she's Black--most of the other students in the fourth-grade class at her West Philadelphia elementary school are too. Maybe it's because she celebrates Kwanzaa, or because she's forbidden from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Maybe it's because she calls her father--a housepainter-slash-philosopher--"Baba" instead of "Daddy," or because her parents' friends gather to pour out libations "from the Creator, for the Martyrs" and discuss "the community."

- 7 - 12 Voorhoeve, Anne C, and Tammi Reichel. *My Family for the War*. New York: Dial Books, 2012. F
V8985M
- Before the start of World War II, ten-year-old Ziska Mangold, who has Jewish ancestors but has been raised as a Protestant, is taken out of Nazi Germany on one of the Kindertransport trains, to live in London with a Jewish family, where she learns about Judaism and endures the hardships of war while attempting to keep in touch with her parents, who are trying to survive in Holland.
- 7 - 12 Wolf, Allan. *The Watch That Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2011. F
W831W
- Recreates the 1912 sinking of the Titanic as observed by millionaire John Jacob Astor, a beautiful young Lebanese refugee finding first love, "Unsinkable" Molly Brown, Captain Smith, and others including the iceberg itself.
- 8 - 12 Zail, Suzy. *Playing for the Commandant*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2014. F
Z136P
- A young Jewish pianist at Auschwitz, desperate to save her family, is chosen to play at the camp commandant's house. How could she know she would fall in love with the wrong boy?

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