

# Historical Fiction

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## Picture Books

Arnold, Caroline. *Keeper of the Light*. Juliet Fish Nichols is the keeper of the light on Angel Island in the San Francisco Bay Area. Day and night, summer, fall, winter, spring, she must keep the light shining and the fog bell ringing. But what happens when there is a major earthquake? What happens when the bell breaks? Time: 1906

Bildner, Phil. *Marvelous Cornelius*. In New Orleans, Cornelius saw the streets as his calling, and he swept them clean, dancing up one avenue and down another. The old ladies whistled and whirled. The old men hooted and hollered. But then came the rising Mississippi--and a storm greater than anyone had seen before. Time: 2005

Corey, Shana. *Players in Pigtales*. Did you know that "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" was written about a girl? Katie Casey was baseball mad and worked to become a player in the first-ever All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Time: 1943.

Davies, Jacqueline. *Tricking the Tallyman*. The suspicious residents of a small Vermont town try to trick the man who has been sent to count their population for the first United States Census. This story has cat-and-mouse trickery, slapstick antics, and even animals disguised as people! Time: 1790.

Dempsey, Kristy. *A Dance like Starlight: One Ballerina's Dream*. A young girl growing up in Harlem dreams of pirouettes and grande jetes while her mother cleans and stitches costumes for a ballet company. She knows dreams can come true when she sees a performance by Janet Collins, the first African-American prima ballerina. Time: 1950s.

Keller, Shana. *The Peach Pit Parade*. When Polly's father goes overseas to fight in World War I, she struggles to make sense of the war and she wonders how she can contribute to the efforts at home. When the government puts out a notice requesting peach pits to be used in gas mask filters, Polly knows how she can help. Time: 1917.

Levine, Ellen. *Henry's Freedom Box*. Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. All the time he dreams about freedom, but Henry is devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: he will mail himself to the North. Time: 1849

Llanos, Mariana. *Run, Little Chaski!* In this tale set in the ancient Inka empire, Little Chaski has a big job: he is the Inka King's newest royal messenger. But on his first day things quickly start to go awry. Will Little Chaski be able to deliver the royal message on time? Time: 15th century

Medina, Meg. *Tia Isa Wants a Car*. While Tia Isa wants to save money for a car that will take the whole family to the beach, her niece does odd jobs for neighbors. But it's hard to save enough when they are also setting aside money to help family members immigrate. Time: 1950s.

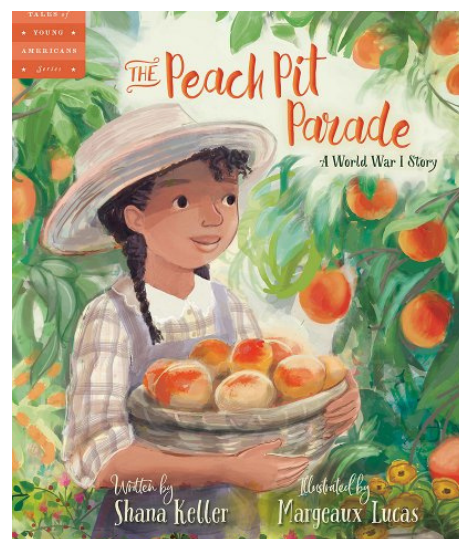
Newman, Lesléa. *Gittel's Journey*. Gittel is immigrating alone, with just her cousin's address in New York on a piece of paper to guide her. However, when Gittel arrives at Ellis Island, she discovers the ink has run and the address is illegible! How will she find her family? Time: 19th century

Robertson, David A. *When We Were Alone*. A young girl wonders about her grandmother's long, braided hair and beautifully colored clothing. And why does she speak Cree and spend so much time with her family? As she asks questions, her grandmother shares her experiences in a residential school, when all of these things were taken away. Time: 20th century.

Say, Allen. *Grandfather's Journey*. Allen Say's grandfather left Japan as a young boy, crossing the Pacific Ocean to the United States. Everything Grandfather saw was new to him. He loved the mountains and sea of California, but missed Japan. Time: Meiji era (1868-1912).

Tokuda-Hall, Maggie. *Love in the Library*. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Tama is sent to live in a War Relocation Center in the desert. All Japanese Americans from the West Coast--elderly people, children, babies--now live in prison camps like Minidoka. Tama doesn't know when or if she will ever leave. She works in the camp's tiny library, taking solace in pages bursting with love and fairness, while George waits each morning by the door, his arms piled with books to return. Is she the reason he's always there? Time 1940s

Woodson, Jacqueline. *This is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration*. The story of one family's journey north during the Great Migration. A little girl in South Carolina finds a rope under a tree and it becomes part of her family's history, passed down through generations. That rope is used for everything from jump rope games to tying suitcases onto a car for the big move north to New York, and even at a family reunion. Time: Early 20th century.



## Early Chapters

Kelly, Jacqueline. *Calpurnia Tate, Girl Vet* (series). Turn-of-the-century Texas is brought to life as Callie and her family explore the natural world around them, inspiring the eleven-year-old girl to help the wildlife in her own backyard. Time: 1890s.

Marciano, John Belemans and Sophie Blackall. *The Witches of Benevento* (series). Welcome to Benevento, an ancient Italian town famous for its witches! The children of Benevento have to be careful and clever to evade witches who hide in wells, under bridges, fly at midnight, and play tricks during Mischief Season. Time: 1820s.

Murphy, Frank. *Babe Ruth Saves Baseball!* Batter up, because baseball is in trouble! All across the country, people are throwing down their bats, and giving up America's national pastime. It's up to Babe Ruth to win back fans and save baseball! Can he do it, or will he strike out? Time: 1919.

Webb, Holly. *The Mysteries of Maisie Hitchens* (series). Twelve-year-old Maisie is a noticing sort of person. That's why she is convinced she would make an excellent detective if she ever got the chance! When crime strikes her Victorian London neighborhood, Maisie and her canine sidekick, Eddie, search the streets for clues to crack the case. Time: Late 19th century.

Whitby, Adele. *Secrets of the Manor: Beth's Story*. (paperback series). It's summer in England, and Beth Etheridge can't wait for her twelfth birthday to arrive. But when a family heirloom goes missing, Beth's search for answers leads her to a hidden diary with clues to a much larger family mystery that dates back generations. Each book in this mystery series explores a different family secret throughout generations! Time: 1914

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Cline-Ransome, Lesa. *Finding Langston* (series). Langston's mother dies and his father moves them from Alabama to Chicago's Bronzeville district, which has one fantastic thing. Unlike the whites-only library in Alabama, the Chicago Public Library welcomes everyone. There, Langston discovers the poet who inspired his mother enough to name her only son after him. Time: 1946

Erdrich, Louise. *The Birchbark House* (series). Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island. Time: 1847

Hiranandani, Veera. *How to Find What You're Not Looking For*. Twelve-year-old Ariel Goldberg's life feels like the moment after the final guest leaves the party. Her family's Jewish bakery runs into financial trouble, and her older sister has eloped with a young man from India following the Supreme Court decision that strikes down laws banning interracial marriage. As change becomes Ariel's only constant, she's left to hone something that will be with her always--her own voice. Time: 1967

Kelkar, Supriya. *Ahimsa*. When her mother is jailed for being one of Gandhi's freedom fighters, ten-year-old Anjali overcomes her own prejudices and continues her mother's social reform work, befriending children in the Dalit community--the "untouchables" of society--and working to integrate her school. Time: 1942

Konigsburg, E.L. *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver*. Eleanor of Aquitaine is in Heaven, waiting to learn whether or not her second husband, King Henry II of England, will be able to join her. With her are Henry's mother, his knight, and an old friend of Eleanor's. Each person in turn tells a part of Eleanor's life, vividly illustrating the excitement of living in twelfth-century England and France, and especially the excitement of being Eleanor. Time: 1122-1204

Lai, Thanhha. *Inside Out and Back Again*. Ten year-old Hà has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends. But now the Vietnam War has forced her family to flee to America. There Hà discovers the foreign world of Alabama: the coldness of its strangers, the dullness of its food...and the strength of her own family. Time: 1970s

Larson, Kirby. *Hattie Big Sky*. For years, sixteen-year-old Hattie's been shuttled between relatives, and she leaves Iowa to take over her late uncle's homestead claim in Montana. Hattie faces frost, drought and blizzards, but forges ahead, sharing her adventures with her friends through letters and articles for her hometown paper. Time: 1917

Lezotte, Ann Clare. *Show Me a Sign*. Mary has always felt safe on her beloved Martha's Vineyard. Her great-great-grandfather was an early English settler and the first deaf islander. Now, many people there, including Mary, are deaf, and nearly everyone can communicate in sign language. But a cunning young scientist's maniacal drive to learn why so many are deaf soon renders Mary a "live specimen" in a cruel experiment that she struggles to rescue herself from. Time: 1805

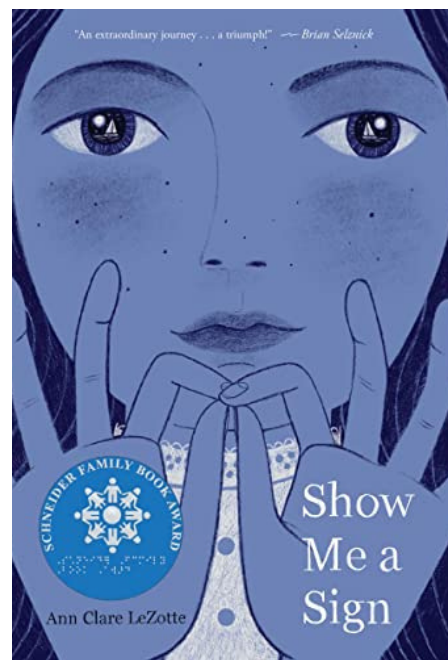
Nelson, Jennifer A. *Words on Fire*. Danger is never far from Audra's family farm in Lithuania. The occupying Russian Cossack soldiers insist that everyone must become Russian, banning Lithuanian books, religion, culture, and even language. When Cossacks arrive abruptly at their door, Audra's parents insist that she flee, taking with her an important package and instructions for where to deliver it. But escape means abandoning her parents to a terrible fate. Time: 1893

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Sugar*. Ten-year-old Sugar lives on a plantation, working in the sugarcane fields. When a group of Chinese workers arrives to help harvest the cane, Sugar wants to know everything about them--she loves the way they dress, their language, and the stories they tell of dragons and emperors. Other folks on the plantation are fearful and threatened by their different customs. Sugar sets out to help the two communities realize they're not so different after all. Time: 1870

Rose, Caroline Starr. *Jasper and the Riddle of Riley's Mine*. Jasper and his older brother Melvin often talk of running away, heading north to Alaska to chase riches beyond their wildest dreams. The Klondike Gold Rush is calling, and Jasper knows he and Melvin can find the gold--all they have to do is survive the rough Alaskan terrain, along with the steep competition from the unscrupulous and dangerous people they encounter along the way. Time: 1897

Willing McManus, Charlene and Traci Sorrell. *Indian No More*. Regina's family has always been Umpqua, and living on the Grand Ronde reservation is all she has ever known. But when the federal government signs a bill into law that says Regina's tribe no longer exists, Regina becomes 'Indian no more' overnight, and then a move to LA means a whole new world. Time: 1957

Woods, Brenda. *When Winter Robeson Came*. When Eden's cousin Winter comes for a visit, it turns out he's not just there to sightsee. He wants to figure out what happened to his dad, who disappeared ten years earlier from the Watts area of L.A. So the cousins set out to investigate together, and what they discover brings them joy--and heartache. It also opens up a whole new understanding of their world, just as the area they've got their sights on explodes in a clash between the police and the Black residents. Time: 1965



## Graphic Novels

Hannigan, Kate. *The Great Chicago Fire: Rising From the Ashes*. Red-hot embers swirl on a dry prairie wind, igniting a blaze that will engulf Chicago for two terrifying days. As a young brother and sister rescue a helpless puppy, they race to stay one step ahead of the devilish inferno and reunite with their lost family. With downtown reduced to a charred skeleton of itself, how will the once-proud city ever rebuild? Time: 1871

Khor, Shing Yin. *The Legend of Auntie Po*. Aware of the racial tumult in the years after the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mei tries to remain blissfully focused on her job, her close friendship with the camp foreman's daughter, and telling stories about Paul Bunyan--reinvented as Po Pan Yin (Auntie Po), an elderly Chinese matriarch. Anchoring herself with stories of Auntie Po, Mei navigates the difficulty and politics of lumber camp work and her growing romantic feelings for her friend Bee. Time Period: 1885

Larson, Hope. *Goldie Vance* (series). Sixteen-year-old Marigold "Goldie" Vance has an insatiable curiosity. She lives at a Florida resort with her dad, who manages the place, and it's her dream to one day be the hotel's in-house detective. When Walter, the current detective, encounters a case he can't crack, together they utilize her smarts, skills, and connections to solve the mystery...even if it means getting into a drag race, solving puzzles, or chasing a helicopter to do it! Time: 1960s

Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived the Nazi Invasion* (series). In a Jewish ghetto, Max Rosen and his sister Zena struggle to live after their father is taken away by the Nazis. With barely enough food to survive, the siblings make a daring escape from Nazi soldiers into the nearby forest. Max and Zena are brought to a safe camp by Jewish resistance fighters. But soon, bombs are falling all around them. Can Max and Zena survive the fallout of the Nazi invasion? Time: 1944