



# Historical Fiction for Children in Grades 4 – 6

All titles are located in the Juvenile Fiction section.

*500 – 1066 CE*

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Moodie, Craig

[SEA SINGER](#)

After his father and brothers fail to return from a voyage to the west, Finn, a twelve-year-old Viking, stows away on Leif Ericsson's ship and sails to North America to search for them.

*Middle Ages and Renaissance*

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Hawes, Charles Boardman

[THE DARK FRIGATE](#)

In seventeenth-century England, orphaned Philip Marsham, forced to flee London after a terrible accident, finds himself in an even more difficult situation when his ship is taken over by pirates and he is forced to become a member of their crew.

O'Brien, Patrick

[THE MAKING OF A KNIGHT: HOW SIR JAMES EARNED HIS ARMOR](#)

Story traces James's journey during the Middle Ages in England from inexperienced page at the age of seven to knighthood at the age of twenty-one.

Park, Linda Sue

[A SINGLE SHARD](#)

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

Shulevitz, Uri

[THE TRAVELS OF BENJAMIN OF TUDELA](#)

A fictionalized account of the travels of Benjamin, a Jewish man from Tudela, Spain, who, in 1159, set out on a fourteen-year-long journey that took him to Italy, Greece, Palestine, Persia, China, Egypt, and Sicily.

*Colonial Period*

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Dagliesh, Alice

[THE COURAGE OF SARAH NOBLE](#)

An eight-year-old girl finds courage to go alone with her father to build a new home in the Connecticut wilderness, and to stay with the Indians when her father goes back to bring the rest of the family.

Field, Rachel

[CALICO BUSH](#)

The story of a young girl who is left orphaned and alone shortly after her French family arrives in the New World. Colonial Maine and its early settlement provide the setting for this story of the dangers of pioneer life.

Keehn, Sally M.

### I AM REGINA

In 1755, as the French and Indian War begins, ten-year-old Regina is kidnapped by Indians in western Pennsylvania, and she must struggle to hold onto memories of her earlier life as she grows up under the name of Tskinnak and starts to become Indian herself.

Speare, Elizabeth

### THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft.

Waters, Kate

### ON THE MAYFLOWER: VOYAGE OF THE SHIP'S APPRENTICE & A PASSENGER GIRL

A twelve-year-old apprentice and a seven-year-old passenger experience the first voyage of the Mayflower.

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## *Revolutionary War*

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Avi

### THE FIGHTING GROUND

Thirteen-year-old Jonathan goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War and discovers the real war is being fought within himself.

DeFord, Deborah H.

### AN ENEMY AMONG THEM

A young Hessian soldier questions his loyalty to his king after fighting with the British in America during the Revolutionary War and spending time as a prisoner in the home of a German American family from Pennsylvania.

Forbes, Esther

### JOHNNY TREMAIN

After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.

Gregory, Kristiana

### WHEN FREEDOM COMES

In her diary, eleven-year-old Hope writes about her life in 1778 Philadelphia as British Redcoats take over her family's house, her father fights with the Continental Army at Valley Forge, and she gains a new friend and new baby sister. Includes a historical note.

Krensky, Stephen

### DANGEROUS CROSSING: THE REVOLUTIONARY VOYAGE OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

In 1778, ten-year old Johnny Adams and his father make a dangerous mid-winter voyage from Massachusetts to Paris in hopes of gaining support for the colonies during the American Revolution.

Nixon, Joan Lowry

### MARIA'S STORY: 1773

In Williamsburg, Virginia, two years before the start of the American Revolution, nine-year-old Maria worries that her mother will lose her contract to publish official reports and announcements of the British government because she prints anti-British articles in their family-run newspaper.

Noble, Trinka Hakes

### THE SCARLET STOCKINGS SPY

In 1777 Philadelphia, young Maddy Rose spies for General Washington's army by using an unusual code to communicate with her soldier brother.

O'Dell, Scott

### SARAH BISHOP

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

Reit, Seymor

### GUNS FOR GENERAL WASHINGTON

In the bitter winter of 1775-76, Colonel Henry Knox and his younger brother Will, both of the Continental Army, become frustrated with the British blockade of Boston and decide to attempt to move 183 cannons from Fort Ticonderoga, over 300 miles of mountainous wilderness, to defend the besieged city.

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## *A Young Nation*

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Avi

### THE TRUE CONFESSIONS OF CHARLOTTE DOYLE

As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.

Blos, Joan W. **A GATHERING OF DAYS**

The journal of a fourteen-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend.

Collier, James L. **WHO IS CARRIE?**

A young black girl living in New York City in the late eighteenth century observes the historic events taking place around her and at the same time solves the mystery of her own identity.

Houston, Gloria **BRIGHT FREEDOM'S SONG**

In the years before the Civil War, Bright discovers that her parents are providing a safehouse for the Underground Railroad and helps to save a runaway slave named Marcus.

Paterson, Katherine **LYDDIE**

Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.

Speare, Elizabeth George **THE SIGN OF THE BEAVER**

Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in eighteenth-century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

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### *Western Expansion*

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Cushman, Karen **THE BALLAD OF LUCY WHIPPLE**

In 1849, twelve-year-old California Morning Whipple, who renames herself Lucy, is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a rough California mining town.

MacLachlan, Patricia **SARAH, PLAIN AND TALL**

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls **LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE**

A family travels from the big woods of Wisconsin to a new home on the prairie, where they build a house, meet neighboring Indians, build a well, and fight a prairie fire.

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### *The Civil War*

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Beatty, Patricia **CHARLEY SKEDADDLE**

Charley runs off to join the army after his brother's death during the Civil War.

Hahn, Mary Downing **HEAR THE WIND BLOW**

With their mother dead and their home burned, a thirteen-year-old boy and his little sister set out across Virginia in search of relatives during the final days of the Civil War.

Hunt, Irene **ACROSS FIVE APRILS**

Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.

Keith, Harold **RIFLES FOR WATIE**

When Jeff Bussey of Linn County, Kansas joined Union Volunteers, he could not foresee that he would be an espionage agent as well as a soldier.

Perez, Norah A. **THE SLOPES OF WAR**

Buck Summerhill, a young soldier from West Virginia, faces the horrors of the Battle of Gettysburg knowing that his two cousins, Curtis and Mason, may be fighting against him in the Army of Northern Virginia.

Reeder, Carolyn **SHADES OF GRAY**

At the end of the Civil War, twelve-year-old Will, having lost all his immediate family, reluctantly leaves his city home to live in the Virginia countryside with his aunt and the uncle he considers a "traitor" because he refused to take part in the war.

Wisler, G. Clifton                      **RED CAP**

A young Yankee drummer boy displays great courage when he's captured and sent to Andersonville Prison.

*Late 1800's to early 1900's*

Calvert, Patricia                      **SOONER**

With the realization that his father may not return now that the Civil War is over, thirteen-year-old Tyler finds himself the man of their Missouri farm and the master of a new dog, the strikingly colored Sooner.

Conrad, Pam                              **PRAIRIE SONGS**

Louisa's life in a loving pioneer family on the Nebraska prairie is altered by the arrival of a new doctor and his beautiful, tragically frail wife.

Hansen, Joyce                          **I THOUGHT MY SOUL WOULD RISE AND FLY: THE DIARY OF PATSY, A FREED GIRL**

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

Schmidt, Gary D.                      **LIZZIE BRIGHT AND THE BUCKMINSTER BOY**

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

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*World War I*

Havill, Juanita                          **EYES LIKE WILLY'S**

While vacationing over the course of several summers in Austria, French siblings Guy and Sarah Masson become best friends with a German boy, until the outbreak of World War I puts them on opposing sides.

Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie              **THE NIGHT THE BELLS RANG**

The last year of World War I is an eventful one for Vermont farm boy Mason as he helps with the chores, tries to get along with his little brother, and sees an older bully go off to the war.

Lasky, Kathryn                          **A TIME FOR COURAGE: THE DIARY OF KATHLEEN BOWEN**

A diary account of thirteen-year-old Kathleen Bowen's life in Washington, D.C. in 1917, as she juggles concerns about the national battle for women's suffrage, the war in Europe, and her own school work and family. Includes a historical note.

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*The Depression*

Choldenko, Gennifer                      **AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS**

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Curtis, Christopher Paul                **BUD, NOT BUDDY**

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Hale, Marian                              **THE TRUTH ABOUT SPARROWS**

Twelve-year-old Sadie promises that she will always be Wilma's best friend when their families leave drought-stricken Missouri in 1933, but once in Texas, Sadie learns that she must try to make a new home--and new friends, too.

Hesse, Karen                              **OUT OF THE DUST**

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

Peck, Richard                              **A LONG WAY FROM CHICAGO**

A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.

Peck, Richard

**A YEAR DOWN YONDER**

During the Recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger than life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.

***World War II***

Choi, Sook Nyul

**YEAR OF IMPOSSIBLE GOODBYES**

A young Korean girl survives the oppressive Japanese and Russian occupation of North Korea during the 1940s, to later escape to freedom in South Korea.

Denenberg, Barry

**EARLY SUNDAY MORNING: THE PEARL HARBOR DIARY OF AMBER BILLOWS**

In her diary, twelve-year-old Amber describes moving to Hawaii in 1941 and experiencing the horror of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Friedman, D. Dina

**ESCAPING INTO THE NIGHT**

Thirteen-year-old Halina Rudowski narrowly escapes the Polish ghetto and flees to the forest, where she is taken in by an encampment of Jews trying to survive World War II.

Giff, Patricia Reilly

**LILY'S CROSSING**

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

Hahn, Mary Downing

**STEPPING ON THE CRACKS**

In 1944, while her brother is overseas fighting in World War II, eleven-year-old Margaret gets a new view of the school bully Gordy when she finds him hiding his own brother, an army deserter, and decides to help him.

Kerr, Judith

**WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT**

Recounts the adventures of a nine-year-old Jewish girl and her family in the early 1930's as they travel from Germany to England.

Levitin, Sonia

**SILVER DAYS**

Escaping from Hitler's Germany, a prosperous Jewish family lives in a New York City tenement until Papa decides to move the family to California.

Lowry, Lois

**NUMBER THE STARS**

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Orlev, Uri

**RUN, BOY, RUN**

Based on the true story of a nine-year-old boy who escapes the Warsaw Ghetto and must survive throughout the war in the Nazi-occupied Polish countryside.

Paulsen, Gary

**THE COOKCAMP**

During World War II, a little boy is sent to live with his grandma, a cook in a camp for workers building a road through the wilderness.

Vos, Ida

**HIDE AND SEEK**

A young Jewish girl living in Holland tells of her experiences during the Nazi occupation, her years in hiding, and the aftershock when the war finally ends.

Watkins, Yoko Kawashima

**SO FAR FROM THE BAMBOO GROVE**

A fictionalized autobiography in which eleven-year-old Yoko escapes from Korea to Japan with her mother and sister at the end of World War II.

Westall, Robert

**THE KINGDOM BY THE SEA**

During World War II twelve-year-old Harry and a stray dog travel through war-torn England in search of safety.

## *Post World War II*

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Lord, Bette

### [IN THE YEAR OF THE BOAR AND JACKIE ROBINSON](#)

In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.

Taylor, Mildred D.

### [THE GOLD CADILLAC](#)

Two black girls living in the North are proud of their family's beautiful new Cadillac until they take it on a visit to the South and encounter racial prejudice for the first time.

Uchida, Yoshiko

### [JOURNEY HOME](#)

After their release from an American concentration camp, a Japanese-American girl and her family try to reconstruct their lives amidst strong anti-Japanese feelings which breed fear, distrust, and violence.

## *Vietnam War*

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Myers, Walter Dean

### [PATROL: AN AMERICAN SOLDIER IN VIETNAM](#)

A frightened American soldier faces combat in the lush forests of Vietnam.

White, Ellen Emerson

### [THE JOURNAL OF PATRICK SEAMUS FLAHERTY, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS](#)

An eighteen-year-old Marine records in his journal his experiences in Vietnam during the siege of Khe Sanh, 1967-1968. Includes a history of Vietnam, war timeline, glossary, and related military information.

White, Ellen Emerson

### [WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?: THE DIARY OF MOLLY MACKENZIE FLAHERTY](#)

In 1968 Massachusetts, after her brother Patrick goes to fight in Vietnam, fifteen-year-old Molly records in her diary how she misses her brother, volunteers at a Veterans' Administration Hospital, and tries to make sense of the war in Vietnam and the tumultuous events in the United States. Includes historical notes.