

Journey Through Our Nation's History  
*Juvenile Historical Fiction Bibliography*



Our Nation's History

for grades 3 - 8

# Journey Through Our Nation's History

## *Juvenile Historical Fiction Bibliography*

### 1600's

E Harness                      Three Young Pilgrims

Three pilgrim children survive the Mayflower voyage and the harsh early years of the Plymouth Colony.

E McGill                      Molly Bannaky

Relates how Benjamin Banneker's grandmother journeyed from England to Maryland in the late seventeenth century, worked as an indentured servant, began a farm of her own, and married a freed slave.

E Peacock                      Pilgrim Cat

A young girl befriends a stray cat on the Mayflower.

J Carbone                      Blood on the River: James Town 1607

A young orphan's adventures of traveling to the New World do not end when he settles in Jamestown.

J Kirkpatrick                      Trouble's Daughter: The Story of Susanna Hutchinson, Indian Captive

When Anne Hutchinson's family is massacred by Indians, nine-year-old daughter Susanna is captured and raised as a Lenape.

J Rinaldi                      The Journal of Jasper Jonathan Pierce, A Pilgrim Boy (My Name is America series)

A young indentured servant writes about his experiences on the Mayflower and the beginnings of Plymouth colony.

J Speare                      The Witch of Blackbird Pond

When Kit befriends a strange old woman considered a witch by the community, she arouses the suspicion of the women in her village.

### 1700's

E Borden                      Sleds on Boston Common: A Story from the American Revolution

When snow falls, Redcoat soldiers move their camps to allow children a chance to play in the snow.

E Chandra                      George Washington's Teeth

George Washington continues to lose teeth as he fights in the Revolutionary War.

E Fleming                      The Hatmaker's Sign: A Story by Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin tells a humorous story to Thomas Jefferson after his draft of the Declaration of Independence is criticized

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J Anderson    *Fever 1793*

Mattie is forced to flee the city when a Yellow Fever Epidemic spreads throughout Philadelphia

J Noble        *The Scarlet Stockings Spy*

Maddy Rose spies for General Washington's army using an unusual code to communicate with her Minuteman brother.

J Myers        *The Keeping Room*

After his father leaves to fight in the American Revolution, British soldiers capture Joey's family home.

J Osborne     *Standing in the Light: The Captive Diary of Catharine Carey Logan (Dear America series)*

A Quaker girl's diary reflects her experiences growing up in the Delaware River Valley of Pennsylvania and her capture by Lenape Indians in 1763.

J Pryor        *Thomas*

Thomas and his family escape a bloody massacre at Wyoming Valley and endure a dangerous journey to Philadelphia.

J Speare       *The Sign of the Beaver*

Left alone to guard the family's home in the Maine wilderness, 13-year-old Matt is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

## 1800-1820

E Fleming     *A Big Cheese for the White House: A True Tale of a Tremendous Cheddar*

When they hear that the White House is ordering cheese from a rival company in Connecticut, the citizens of Cheshire, Massachusetts send a 1200 lb. wheel of cheese to the White House.

E McCully    *The Battle for St. Michaels*

At age 9, Caroline runs ahead to warn the residents of her small town about the British army.

J Alcott      *An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving*

The activities of seven children in nineteenth-century New England as they prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday while their Mother is away caring for Grandmother.

J Robinet     *Washington City is Burning*

Virginia, a slave in President Madison's White House, recounts the burning of the Washington House during the War of 1812.

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E Sanders                      A Place Called Freedom

A slave family travels from Tennessee to Indiana and become part of a unique town of freed slaves.

J Dadey                        Cherokee Sister

Mistaken for a Cherokee Indian, Allie is kidnapped along with her Cherokee friend's family and forced to walk The Trail of Tears.

J Frederick                    The Education of Patience Goodspeed

Patience longs for adventure aboard her father's whaling ship but instead endures etiquette and French lessons from the woman she fears will become her stepmother.

J Osborne                     Adaline Falling Star

The daughter of Kit Carson and a deceased Arapaho woman runs away from her insufferable cousins and travels across the wilderness to find her father.

## 1840-1859

E Bradby                      More Than Anything Else

Young Booker T. Washington works in the salt mill with his father and brother. When he sees a young black man reading a newspaper, he decides he must learn to read.

E Connor                     Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel

Miss Bridie, a young immigrant woman, chooses a shovel to take on her journey to America and uses it the rest of her life.

E Vaughan                    Up the Learning Tree

Henry, a young slave boy, risks his life to learn to read with the help of a special teacher.

E Woodson                    Show Way

When a young girl is sold from her plantation, she learns to make beautiful quilts with secret messages that help other slaves escape. Quilting remains important in her family for many generations.

E Wright                      Jumping the Broom

A young girl on the plantation reports the activities accompanying her sister's wedding day.

J Erdrich                      The Birchbark House

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 in Lake Superior in 1847.

J Gregory                      Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie: The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell  
(Dear America series)

In her diary, thirteen-year-old Hattie, chronicles her family's arduous 1847 journey from Missouri to Oregon on the Oregon Trail.

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J Pearsall      *Trouble Don't Last*

Samuel, an eleven-year old slave, and his elderly friend Harrison encounter danger on the Underground Railroad.

J Denenberg    *So Far From Home: The Diary of Mary Driscoll, an Irish Mill Girl (Dear America series)*

In the diary account of her journey from Ireland in 1847 and of her work in a mill in Lowell, Massachusetts, fourteen-year-old Mary reveals a great longing for her family.

### 1860's

E Glass        *Sweetwater Run: The Story of Buffalo Bill Cody and the Pony Express*

Young Buffalo Bill Cody tells of his adventures as a teenager delivering mail on the Pony Express.

E Hopkinson   *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*

A handmade quilt reveals the path of the Underground Railroad and leads a young slave to freedom in Canada.

E Kay         *Iron Horses*

Workers on the Central Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad labor many hours to create the transcontinental railroad.

J Hansen      *I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly: The Diary of Patsy, a Freed Girl (Dear America series)*

Patsy's diary recounts the end of slavery and the beginning of a new life during the Reconstruction Era.

J Paulsen      *Soldier's Heart: A Novel of the Civil War*

Anticipating a great adventure, Charlie lies about his age and joins the Union Army.

J Reeder      *Before the Creeks Ran Red*

Three rebel soldiers recount their adventures beginning with South Carolina's succession until the first battle of the Civil War.

J Rinaldi      *Girl in Blue*

To avoid an abusive father and an arranged marriage, Sarah escapes from her Michigan home, goes to battle as a boy, and becomes a spy for the Union Army.

### 1870's

E Bunting     *Train to Somewhere*

Marianne and 13 other orphans travel west in hopes of finding new homes.

E Hopkinson   *Fannie in the Kitchen*

When Fannie Farmer comes to her home to work as a mother's helper, young Marci Shaw encourages her to write down recipes in the first modern cookbook.

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J LaFaye                      Worth

After crushing his leg under a wagon, Nate feels useless when he can no longer assist his father with the family farm. He becomes even more distressed when his father adopts a young boy from the Orphan Train to work on the farm.

J Murphy                      The Journal of Brian Doyle: A Greenhorn on an Alaskan Whaling Ship  
(My Name is America series)

In 1874, Brian Doyle records in his diary how he ran away from his home in San Francisco, joined the crew of a whaling ship, and endured storms, hostile shipmates, and being stranded in the Arctic.

### 1880's

E Drummond                      Liberty!

A young boy watches the Statue of Liberty being unveiled for the first time.

J Cushman                      Rodzina

Rodzina and other orphans board a train heading west hoping for a new home but fearing a life of unpaid slavery.

J MacLachlan                      More Perfect Than the Moon

In the fourth book of the Sarah Plain and Tall series, Cassie, the youngest daughter of Jacob and his mail order bride Sarah, keeps a journal about her feelings. She is especially fearful about the health of her mother and unborn sibling.

### 1890's

E McCully                      An Outlaw Thanksgiving

While traveling with her mother cross-country by train in 1896, a young girl unexpectedly shares Thanksgiving dinner with the notorious outlaw, Butch Cassidy.

J Carbone                      Storm Warriors

Nathan moves with his father and grandfather to Pea Island in North Carolina where he aspires to become a member of an all-black lifesaving crew.

J Love                      A Year Without Rain

It's been a long year without rain in the Dakotas and now Rachel fears her widowed father will marry again.

### 1900 -1919

E Garland                      The President and Mom's Apple Pie

When "Big Bill" Taft visits a young boy's hometown, the President is impressed with the homemade goodies prepared for him.

J Gutman                      Race for the Sky: The Kitty Hawk Diaries of Johnny Moore

A young boy meets two "dingbatters" from Ohio who are trying to build a flying machine.

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J PBK (Jones)      *The Night Flyers*

While her father fights in World War I, Pam cares for homing pigeons. She suspects a mysterious stranger in town is a German spy.

J Karwoski      *Quake!: Disaster in San Francisco, 1906*

After Jacob saves the life of a Chinese boy, the pair searches through the storm ravaged city seeking their families, food and shelter.

J Snyder      *Gib and the Gray Ghost*

Gib leaves the Lowell Home for Orphaned and Abandoned Boys to become a ranch hand for a wealthy family and discovers a mysterious ghost.

J Woodruff      *The Orphan of Ellis Island*

On a field trip to Ellis Island, Dominic travels back to eighteenth century Italy and accompanies two emigrants to America.

### 1920's

E Borden      *Goodbye, Charles Lindbergh: Based on a True Story*

A young boy has the adventure of his life when famous aviator Charles Lindbergh lands in a pasture near his father's farm.

J Fuqua      *Darby*

Darby Carmichael stirs up trouble in her rural South Carolina community when she writes a letter to the editor advocating racial equality.

J Ryan      *Esperanza Rising*

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave behind a life of wealth in Mexico and work in labor camps in California.

### 1930's

E High      *The Girl on the High-Diving Horse: An Adventure in Atlantic City*

Eight-year-old Ivy Cordelia is fascinated by stunt performers who dive from a tall platform into a tank of water.

E Ryan      *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride*

When world famous aviator Amelia Earhart visits First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt at the White House, the two take off on an amazing adventure.

J Curtis      *Bud, Not Buddy*

A motherless boy searches for his father during the Great Depression.

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J Hale      *The Truth About Sparrows*

Sadie must leave her best friend behind when she and her family flee the Dust Bowl in Missouri to make a new start in Texas.

J Henderson    *Hard Times for Jake Smith*

After Mary Jake is abandoned by her destitute parents, she disguises herself as a boy and works as a farm hand.

J Hesse      *Out of the Dust*

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.

### 1940's

E Corey      *Players in Pigtales*

Katie Casey has never been allowed to play on local men's teams until she gets her chance to try out for the All-American Girls Baseball League.

J Avi      *Don't You Know There's a War On?*

Howie leads a campaign to prevent his favorite teacher from being fired.

J Denenberg    *The Journal of Ben Uchida, Citizen #13559, Mirror Lake Internment  
Camp (My Name is America series)*

Ben and his family spend much of World War II in a special camp for Japanese Americans.

J Giff      *Lily's Crossing*

Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

J Hill      *The Year of Miss Agnes*

A new teacher introduces children in Alaska to the world outside their small village.

### 1950's

E McKissack    *Goin' Someplace Special*

A young African-American girl travels across segregated Nashville to get to the library, a place in town that she knows she is always welcome.

E Woodson    *The Other Side*

A lonely white girl pursues a forbidden friendship with the black girls who live on the other side of the fence behind her house.

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### 1960's

E Harrington    *Going North*

Jessie and her family leave Alabama for greater opportunities and racial equality in Nebraska.

E Raven        *Circle Unbroken: The Story of a Basket and Its People*

A young girl learns about her family's history of basket weaving that began in Africa.

J Curtis        *The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963*

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

J White        *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?: The Diary of Molly MacKenzie Flaherty*  
(Dear America series)

When Molly's brother volunteers for military service in Vietnam, she volunteers at a VA hospital and tries to make sense of the controversy around her.

Nation's History