

American Booklist - Historical Fiction - Readers

| | <u>Short Chapter</u> | <u>Upper Elementary</u> | <u>Middle School</u> |
|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Native Americans & Explorers</i> | Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims (Clyde Bulla) | Nacar, the White Deer (Elizabeth de Trevino) | The King's Fifth (Scott O'Dell) |
| <i>First Explores & Settlers</i> | Pedro's Journal (Pam Conrad) | Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus? (Jean Fritz) | Blood on the River: James 1607 (Elisa Carbone) |
| <i>Colonization</i> | Roanoke: The Lost Colony (Heidi Stemple) | A Lion to Guard Us (Clyde Bulla) | The Outlaws of Ravenhurst* (Sr. Imelda Wallace) |
| | Thanksgiving on Thursday (Mary Pope – Magic Treehouse) | Almost Home (Wendy Lawton) | The Iron Peacock (Mary Clarke) |
| | Elin's Amerika* (Marguerite d'Angeli) | The Witch of Blackbird Pond* (Elizabeth George Speare) | Mirror of Witches (Esther Forbes) |
| <i>French & Indian War</i> | The Last of the Mohicans (Cooper – stepping stones) | Indian Captive* (Lois Lenski) | Light in the Forest (Conrad Richter) |
| | The Matchlock Gun* (Walter Edmonds) | Madeleine Takes Command (Ethel Brill) | Calico Captive* (Elizabeth George Speare) |
| | Trailblazing Life of Daniel Boone (Cheryl Harness) | The Kidnapped Prince (Ann Cameron) | Alone Yet Not Alone (Tracy Craven) |
| | Sarah Whitcher's Story (Elizabeth Yates) | Calico Bush (Rachel Field) | The Meeting Place (Janette Oke) |

Parent/Teacher Tips: Reading levels are described below. Remember to preview these books yourself. I have read many of these titles; others are provided based upon exceptional reviews.

- 1) Short Chapter – For students who have surpassed the “I Can Read” books but are not yet ready for a “regular” children’s novel. Often contains a few illustrations & larger text.*
- 2) Upper Elementary – Generally accessible for students in upper elementary or middle school. Typically about 150-300 pages with higher vocabulary, & few or no illustrations.*
- 3) Contains complex vocabulary or format, more mature content, or of greater length.*

| | <u>Short Chapter</u> | <u>Upper Elementary</u> | <u>Middle School</u> |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <i>Life in the Colonies</i> | The Courage of Sarah Noble (Alice Dalgliesh) | Sign of the Beaver (Elizabeth Goerge Speare) | Diary of an Early American Boy (Eric Sloane) |
| | Ben and Me* (Robert Lawson) | Amos Fortune* (Elizabeth Yates) | Poor Richard (James Daughtery) |
| | George Washington's Birthdays (Coward McCann) | The Secret Sealed Room (Bailey MacDonald) | The Indigo Girl (Natasha Boyd) |
| | Ariel Bradley, Spy for George Washington (Lynda Durrant) | Can't You Make Them Behave, King George? / Why Don't You Get a Horse, Sam Adams? (Jean Fritz) | Carry On, Mr. Bowditch* (Jean Edmonds) |
| <i>Revolutionary War</i> | The Arrow Over the Door (Joseph Bruchac) | Reb and the Redcoats (Constance Savory) | Early Thunder (Jean Fritz) |
| | One Dead Spy (Nathan Hale – Hazardous Tales) | Toliver's Secret (Esther Brady) | My Brother Sam is Dead (James Collier) |
| | George Washington's Socks (Elvria Woodruff) | Guns for General Washington (Seymour Reit) | Chains (Laurie Anderson) |
| | Phoebe the Spy (Judith Griffin) | Mr. Revere and Me (Robert Lawson) | Minute Boys of Bunker Hill (Edward Stratemeyer) |
| | The Cabin Faced West* (Jean Fritz) | Becky Landers (Constance Skinner) | Sarah Bishop (Scott O'Dell) |
| | Emma's Journal (Marissa Moss) | Sophia's War (Avi) | Johnny Tremain* (Esther Forbes) |
| | Revolutionary War on Wednesday (Mary Pope) | The Sherwood Ring* (Elizabeth Pope) | Saving Dr. Warren (Jeffrey McKenna) |

*Parent/Teacher Tips: Remember, **when determining which level your child is at, students may be able to read some books at a higher level than their usual set and it is always fine to allow them to read easier books!** Historical fiction supplements a history or literature course, and it is important that the students enjoy themselves. Resist the myth that harder is better. 😊*

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|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <i>Lewis & Clark</i> | Blades of Freedom (Nathan Hale – Hazardous Tales) | Streams to the River, River to Sea (Scott O’Dell) | Of Courage Undaunted (James Daughtery) |
| <i>War of 1812</i> | The Story of the Star Spangled Banner (Ryan Jacobson – Graphic) | Once this Island (Gloria Whelan) | Dolley Madison and the War of 1812 (Libby McNamee) |
| <i>Young America</i> | Thee, Hannah (Marguerite de Angeli) | Caddie Woodlawn* (Carol Brink) | Little Women (Louisa May Alcott) |
| | The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (Twain – Stepping Stones) | A Gathering of Days (Joan Blos) | Tom Sawyer* (Mark Twain) |
| | Bears on Hemlock Mountain* (Alice Dalgliesh) | The Black Pearl (Scott O’Dell) | Ishi, Last of His Tribe (Theodora Kroeber) |
| <i>Westward Expansion</i> | Little House books (Laura Ingalls Wilder) | Forty Acres & a Mule (Henriette Robinet) | Island of Blue Dolphins (Scott O’Dell) |
| | Sarah, Plain and Tall (Patricia MacLachlan) | By the Great Horn Spoon* (Sid Fleischman) | Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm (Kate Wiggin) |
| | The Secret Valley (Clyde Bulla) | The Prairie Thief (Melissa Wiley) | A Lantern in Her Hand (Bess Aldrich) |
| | The Donner Dinner Party* (Nathan Hale – Hazardous Tales) | Patty Reed’s Doll (Rachel Laugaard) | The Stout-Hearted Seven: Orphaned on the Oregon Trail* (Neta Frazier) |
| | Rescue on the Oregon Trail (Kate Messner – Ranger in Time) | Bound for Oregon (Jean Van Leeuwen) | Hattie Big Sky (Kirby Larson) |
| | Pioneer Cat (William Hooks) | The Balloon Boy of San Francisco (Dorothy Leland) | Letters from the Corrugated Castle (Joan Blos) |

*Parent/Teacher Tips: Remember your child doesn’t have to read all the books suggested. Just pick out the ones which seem most interesting! My favorites are marked with an asterisk. * Aim for one per month!*

| | <u>Short Chapter</u> | <u>Upper Elementary</u> | <u>Middle School</u> |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <i>Underground Railroad</i> | True Stories about Abraham Lincoln (Ruth Belov Gross) | Freedom Train (Dorothy Sterling) | Up From Slavery* (Booker T. Washington) |
| | Frederick Douglass Fights for Freedom* (Margaret Davidson) | North By Night* (Katherine Ayers) | Brady (Jean Fritz) |
| <i>Civil War</i> | Civil War on a Sunday (Mary Pope Osborne – Magic Treehouse) | Shades of Grey (Carolyn Reeder) | Across Five Aprils (Irene Hunt) |
| | Thunder at Gettysburg* (Patricia Gouch) | Perilous Road* (William Steele) | Rifles for Watie* (Harold Keith) |
| | I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg (Lauren Tarshis) | Behind Rebel Lines (Seymour Reit) | In My Father’s House (Ann Rinaldi) |
| | The Ballad of Civil War (Mary Stolz) | Out From This Place (Joyce Hansen) | Turn Homeward, Hannalee (Patricia Beatty) |
| <i>1850s-</i> | Shadow of the Wolf (Gloria Whelan – stepping stones) | Sing Down the Dawn (Scott O’Dell) | The Moccasin Trail* (Eloise McGraw) |
| | Orphan Train Children* (Joan Nixon) <i>series</i> | Orphan Train Adventures (Joan Nixon) <i>series</i> | Anne of Green Gables (Lucy Maude Montgomery) |
| | Champions of the Rosary (Laurie Schmitt) | Old Yeller (Wilson Rawls) | Where the Red Fern Grows (Wilson Rawls) |
| | Nellie Bly (Shannon Knudsen) | Twenty-One Balloons* (William DuBois) | The Story of My Life (Helen Keller) |
| | The Indian School (Gloria Whelan) | Audacity Jones to the Rescue (Kirby Larson) | Lizzie Bright & the Buckminster Boy (Gary Schmidt) |

Parent/Teacher Tips: While most of these books are historical fiction, there are a few biographies intermixed here, and a couple books in the modern time periods are borrowed from the World History booklist (marked WH).

| | <u>Short Chapter</u> | <u>Upper Elementary</u> | <u>Middle School</u> |
|--|--|--|--|
| <i>Coming to America, Turn of the Century</i> | The Cricket in Times Square (Garth Williams) | All of a Kind Family <i>series</i> * (Sydney Taylor) | Mama's Bank Account (Kathryn Forbes) |
| | Molly's Pilgrim (Barbara Cohen) | Land of Hope <i>series</i> (Joan Nixon) | The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* (Jaqueline Kelly) |
| | The Hundred Dresses* (Eleanor Estes) | Letters from Rifka (Karen Hesse) | Voyage (Adele Geras) |
| <i>Teddy Roosevelt</i> | Theodore Roosevelt: Bear of a President (Nathan Olson -graphic bio) | Theodore Roosevelt (Genevieve Foster) | Bully for you, Teddy Roosevelt! (Jean Fritz) |
| <i>World War I</i> | Treaties, Trenches, Mud, & Blood* (Nathan Hale – Hazardous) | The River Between Us (Richard Peck) <i>also covers Civil War</i> | Five Children on the Western Front* (Kate Saunders) <i>WH</i> |
| | The Night the Bells Rang (Natalie Kinsey-Warnock) | Rascal* (Sterling North) | Lines of Courage (Jennifer Neilsen) <i>WH</i> |
| <i>1820s-Great Depression</i> | Balto of the Blue Dawn (Mary Osborne – Treehouse) | Sweet Home Alaska (Carol Dagg) | The Call of the Wild (Jack London) |
| | A Long Way from Chicago* (Richard Peck) | Blue Willow (Doris Gates) | No Promises in the Wind* (Irene Hunt) |
| | Rose's Journal (Marissa Moss) | A Year Down Yonder (Richard Peck) | Hitch (Jeanette Ingold) |
| | Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt (C. Coco De Young) | Esperanza Rising* (Pam Ryan) | Fly Girls (Keith O'Brien – Young Reader's edition) |
| | Dust Bowl (Allison Lassieur – You Choose) | Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry (Mildred Taylor) | Shiloh Legacy (Bodie Thoene) <i>^high school level</i> |

Parent/Teacher Tips: As you've probably noted, the list of Short Chapter books is comprised of graphic novels, you-choose adventures, favorite series titles, & some classic short literature. Keep your child's interests in mind when choosing your selection!

| | <u>Short Chapter</u> | <u>Upper Elementary</u> | <u>Middle School</u> |
|--|--|--|---|
| World War Two | Attack on Pearl Harbor* (Kate Messner – Ranger in Time) | Coming to America (Sonia Levitin) | The Hiding Place* (Corrie Ten Boom – Young Reader’s) <i>WH</i> |
| <i>See world list for more titles...</i> | Raid of No Return (Nathan Hale – Hazardous) | Echo* (Pam Ryan) | Candy Bomber (Michael O. Tunnell) |
| | I Survived the Battle of D-Day (Lauren Tarshis –I Survived) | On the Wings of Heroes (Richard Peck) | The Von Trapp Family Singers (Maria von Trapp) |
| (Japanese internment) | Baseball Saved Us (Ken Mochizuki) <i>Picture book</i> | White Clouds, Red Berries, and Blue Sky (Sandra Dallas) | We Are Not Free (Tracie Chee) |
| Post WWII – 1960s | Stealing Home (Barry Denenberg) | In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* (Bette Lord) | Fly Girl (Sherri Smith) |
| | The Year of Miss Agnes* (Kirkpatrick Hill) | Penny from Heaven (Jennifer Holm) | Lillies of the Field* (William Barrett) |
| | Cold War Correspondent (Nathan Hale – Hazardous) | Miracles on Maple Hill (Virginia Sorensen) | God’s Smuggler (Brother Andrew – Young Student’s) <i>WH</i> |
| | Homer Price (Robert McCloskey) | My Side of the Mountain (Jean George) | Brown Girl Dreaming (Jacqueline Woodson) |
| | The Rescuers (Margery Sharp) | It’s Like This, Cat (Emily Neville) | The Incredible Journey (Sheila Burnford) |
| | Pie in the Sky (Remy Lai) | Cuba in My Pocket (Adrienna Cuevas) | 90 Miles to Havana (Enrique Flores-Galbis) |
| | The Chalk Box Kid (Clyde Bulla) | A Long Way to Go (Bordon Deal) | Kira Kira (Cynthia Kadohata) |

*Parent/Teacher Tips: You’ve probably noted several titles here from favorite series! My children and students have loved these **Magic Treehouse, Hazardous Tales, Ranger in Time** and **I Survived** titles. Be sure to check out the classic **American Girl series** and **Dear America**, as well as the factual **Childhood of Great Americans** and **Landmark** series. Some children prefer non-fiction!*

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|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| <i>Civil Rights</i> | I Have a Dream (Margaret Davidson) | The Watsons Go to Birmingham (Christopher Curtis) | Glory Be (August Scattergood) |
| <i>Space Race</i> | Race to the Moon (Allison Lassieur – You Choose) | I Love You, Michael Collins (Lauren Baratz-Logsted) | To the Moon (Jeffrey Kluger) |
| <i>Vietnam Era</i> | Rosetown (Cynthia Rylant) | Wednesday Wars (Gary Schmidt) | Inside Out & Back Again / Butterfly Yellow (Thanhha Lai) |
| <i>Late 19</i> | The Stories Julian Tells (Ann Cameron) | The Vanderbeekers of 141 st St. (Karina Yan Glaser) | Nowhere Boy (Katherine Marsh) |

*Parent/Teacher Tips: If you're looking for a more factual history text to serve as a spine – while still retaining a story format – check out **Story of a Civilization**, **Genevieve Foster's books**, **A Child's Story of America** and the **Thrifty Guide** series.*