

Historical Fiction for Kids

Ahimsa

Kelkar, Supriya

Find It: J KEL

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 Untouchable children and working to integrate her school.

All the Greys on Greene Street

Tucker, Laura

Find It: J TUC

A 12-year-old artist in 1981 SoHo searches for answers when her father, a restorer of antique paintings, abruptly disappears in the middle of the night amid questions about a partner's suspicious behavior and a missing work of art.

A Night Divided

Nielsen, Jennifer A.

Find It: J NIE

When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz are trapped in East Berlin where they were living, while her father and other brother Dominic are in the West. Four years later, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.

A Plague of Boggles

Jinks, Catherine

Find It: J CD JIN

Jem Barbary becomes a bogler's apprentice in 1870s London and gets the fright of his life in a city where science clashes with superstition and monsters lurk in every alley.

The Blackbird Girls

Blankman, Anne

Find It: J BLA

Told in alternating perspectives among three girls: Valentina and Oksana in 1986 and Rifka in 1941, this story shows that hatred, intolerance, and oppression are no match for the power of true friendship.

The Blackthorn Key Find It: J SAN

Sands, Kevin

In 1665 London, fourteen-year-old Christopher Rowe, apprentice to an apothecary, and his best friend, Tom, try to uncover the truth behind a mysterious cult, following a trail of puzzles, codes, pranks, and danger toward an unearthly secret with the power to tear the world apart.

The Button War: A Tale of the Great War

Avi

Find It: J AVI

Running with friends who entertain themselves by coming up with risky dares, Patryk watches as their village is occupied by hostile nations throughout the Great War, before his friends begin looting the dead soldiers as part of their competition.

Camp Rolling Hills

Davidowitz, Stacy

Find It: J DAV

Stephanie (a.k.a. "Slimey") and Bobby (a.k.a. "Smelly") have concerns regarding their family back home. Stephanie is returning to the camp she adores; Bobby is a first-time camper who does not really understand lots of what is going on around him during his first exposure to life at summer camp.

Catch You Later, Traitor

Avi

Find It: J AVI

It's 1951, and twelve-year-old Pete Collison is a regular kid in Brooklyn who loves Sam Spade detective books and radio crime dramas. When an FBI agent shows up at Pete's door accusing Pete's father of being a Communist, Pete is caught in a real-life mystery. Could there really be Commies in Pete's family?

**Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony,
Inspired by Historical Facts**

Grimes, Nikki

Find It: J GRI

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.

Chasing Secrets

Choldenko, Gennifer

Find It: J CHO

Thirteen-year-old Lizzie and her secret friend Noah, who's hiding in her house, plan to rescue Noah's father from quarantined Chinatown and save their loved ones from contracting the plague spreading through San Francisco in 1900.

City of Grit and Gold

Powell, Maud Macrory

Find It: J POW

Addie, a twelve-year-old Jewish girl in 1886 Chicago, struggles to keep her family together at the time of the Haymarket Affair as laborers protest for better working conditions.

Curiosity

Blackwood, Gary L.

Find It: J BLA

Rufus has nothing he can call his own; when he's recruited by a shady showman to operate a mechanical chess player called the Turk, Rufus sees an opportunity he can't refuse. The job must remain a secret and Rufus worries about what happened to the previous operators, who seem to disappear when they're no longer needed. Can Rufus find out the truth before his questions lead him to a final checkmate?

Dear Hank Williams

Holt, Kimberly Willis

Find It: J HOL

In Rippling Creek, Louisiana, in 1948, eleven-year-old Tate writes letters to her favorite country singer, sharing her dreams of becoming a singer and revealing that her mother is in prison.

Echo

Ryan, Pam Munoz

Find It: J RYA

Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and becomes entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California, find themselves in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the 20th Century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica.

The Eleventh Hour

Goldstyn, Jacques

Find It: J GOL

Jules and Jim are best friends. They play together, go to school together, and grow up together. Through it all, Jim is always a little ahead of Jules: a little faster, a little stronger. When Canada goes to war against Germany in 1914, Jim is the first to volunteer, but Jules is right behind him. They fight together, battle the cold and the mud of the trenches together. In the end, though, only one will see the Armistice.

Full of Beans

Holm, Jennifer L.

Find It: J CD HOL

Beans Curry, a member of the Keepsies, the best marble players in Depression-era Key West, engages in various money-earning schemes while D.C. "New Dealers" arrive to turn run-down Key West into a tourist spot.

Half a Man

Morpurgo, Michael

Find It: J MOR

Follows the experiences of a young man who after years of being told not to ask his World War II veteran grandfather about his injuries learns how his grandfather survived a torpedo attack on his ship.

I Lived on Butterfly Hill

Agosin, Marjorie

Find It: J AGO

When her beloved country, Chile, is taken over by a militaristic, sadistic government, Celeste is sent to America for her safety and her parents must go into hiding before they "disappear."

Indian No More

McManis, Charlene Willing

Find It: J MCM

When Regina's Umpqua tribe is legally terminated and her family must relocate from Oregon to Los Angeles, she goes on a quest to understand her identity as an Indian despite being so far from home.

Into the Killing Seas

Spradlin, Michael P.

Find It: J SPR

In 1945, Patrick and his brother Teddy stow away on the *U.S.S. Indianapolis* in an attempt to get back to the Philippines where they last saw their parents just before the Japanese invasion. When the ship is sunk, they find themselves clinging to debris without food or water and with hungry sharks circling below.

The Inquisitor's Tale: Or the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog

Gidwitz, Adam

Find It: J GID

A peasant girl and her holy greyhound, an oblate on a mission from his monastery, and a young Jewish boy travel across medieval France to escape persecution and save holy texts from being burned.

The Journey of Little Charlie

Curtis, Christopher Paul

Find It: J CUR

When his poor sharecropper father is killed in an accident, leaving the family in debt, twelve-year-old Little Charlie agrees to accompany plantation overseer Cap'n Buck north in pursuit of people who have stolen from him. Cap'n Buck tells Little Charlie his father's debt will be cleared when the fugitives are captured, which seems like a good deal until Little Charlie comes face-to-face with the people he's chasing.

Julius Zebra: Rumble with the Romans!

Northfield, Gary

Find It: J NOR

From a smelly watering hole deep in the heart of the Serengeti to the ferocious clamor of the Colosseum, join Julius Zebra and his motley menagerie of friends as they gear up to be gladiators! Only if they win the love of the Roman crowds will they win back their freedom. But do Julius and his pals have what it takes to succeed in a world where only the meanest and toughest survive?

The Length of a String

Weissman, Elissa Brent

Find It: J WEI

The only black girl in Hebrew school, Imani prepares for her bat mitzvah and hopes to find her birth parents when she discovers great-grandma Anna's Holocaust diary and her family's history of adoption.

Lifeboat 12

Hood, Susan

Find It: J HOO

In 1940, a group of British children, their escorts, and some sailors struggle to survive in a lifeboat when the ship taking them to safety in Canada is torpedoed. Includes historical notes.

Like a River: A Civil War Novel

Wiechman, Kathy Cannon

Find It: J WIE

Two Union soldiers (one too young to properly enlist, the other a girl disguised as a boy), find themselves struggling through the rigors and horrors of war, from amputation to the Andersonville prison camp.

My Near-Death Adventures (99% True!)

DeCamp, Alison

Find It: J DEC

In 1895, twelve-year-old Stan decides to find his long-lost father in the logging camps of Michigan, documenting his travels and encounters with troublesome relatives, his mother's suitors, lumberjacks, and more in his scrapbook.

My Year in the Middle

Weaver, Lila Quintero

Find It: J WEA

At Lu Olivera's school, the white kids and black kids sit on different sides of the classroom. Lu wants to get along with everyone, but growing racial tensions won't let Lu stay neutral about the racial divide.

The Monsters of Cedar Street

Oliver, Lauren

Find It: J OLI

Helping to protect the remarkable creatures that her neighbors in late 19th-century Boston call "monsters," Cordelia teams up with human and fantastical friends when her beloved father and several of the creatures in his care go missing.

Night on Fire

Kidd, Ronald

Find It: J KID

Hoping that the arrival of Freedom Riders in her town will help her community shed its antiquated views, thirteen-year-old Billie is forced to confront her own mindset when things turn tragic.

Otherwise Known as Possum

Laso, Maria D.

Find It: J LAS

Enrolled in school after her mother's death, Possum resolves to preserve her mother's homeschooling lessons by proving she already knows everything, an unsuccessful endeavor complicated by her teacher's attraction to Possum's father.

Prairie Lotus

Park, Linda Sue

Find It: J PAR

In 1880, a half-Chinese girl and her white father try to make a home in Dakota Territory in the face of racism and resistance.

Resistance

Nielsen, Jennifer A.

Find It: J NIE

In 1942, sixteen-year-old Chaya Lindner is a Jewish girl living in Nazi-occupied Poland, a courier who smuggles food and documents to the isolated Jewish ghettos in southern Poland by depending on her forged papers and "Aryan" features. When a mission goes wrong and many of her colleagues are arrested, Chaya finds herself on a journey to Warsaw, where an uprising is in the works.

She Loves You: Yeah, Yeah, Yeah

Hood, Ann

Find It: J CD HOO

In 1966, with her middle school life and the world itself in turmoil, twelve-year-old Trudy and the other three remaining fan club members leave Rhode Island for Boston to see a Beatles concert.

Show Me a Sign

LeZotte, Ann Clare

Find It: J LEZ

It is 1805 and Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard where practically everyone communicates in a shared sign language, but recent events have shattered her life; her brother George died, land disputes between English settlers and the Wampanoag people are becoming increasingly bitter, and a "scientist" determined to discover the origins of the islands' widespread deafness decides Mary is the perfect "live specimen"--and kidnapped her.

Skunked! Calpurnia Tate, Girl Vet
Kelly, Jacqueline

Find It: J KEL

When Travis discovers an abandoned baby skunk, he can't help but bring it home and take care of it. Stinky, as Travis names him, settles in pretty well. But when Travis discovers Stinky's litter-mate, Winky, who is in need of some help, things get complicated around the Tate house.

Stella by Starlight
Draper, Sharon M.

Find It: J DRA

When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

Talking Leaves
Bruchac, Joseph

Find It: J BRU

The story of Sequoyah and the creation of the Cherokee syllabary, as told by his thirteen year old son.

The War I Finally Won
Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker

Find It: J BRA

As the frightening impact of World War II creeps closer and closer to her door, eleven-year-old Ada learns to manage life on the home front.

Time Twisters. Books 1 and 2
Sheinkin, Steve

Find It: J CD SHE

Book 1: deciding to quit history and go on strike in order to teach a lesson to students who declare that history is boring, Abraham Lincoln pursues his dream of becoming a professional wrestler, compelling stepsiblings Abby and Doc to convince the 16th president to restore the timeline.

Book 2: when her fellow historical figures overhear students declaring that history is boring and decide to quit, Abigail Adams decides there is more to life than doing chores in the White House and escapes to become a swashbuckling Caribbean pirate.

Series

American Girl

Find It: J SER AME

Flashback Four
Gutman, Dan

Find It: J SER FLA

I Survived
Tarshis, Lauren

Find It: J SER ISU