AMERICAN HISTORICAL FICTION
This is a selected bibliography of historical fiction from pre-revolutionary America to the early twentieth century. Most titles are appropriate for grades K-8, with some for high school.

**Different Worlds Meet: Exploration and Colonization: 1492 - 1774**

In 1768, Peter joins the search for two runaway indentured servants until he sees how young and ill-used they have been. He must decide whether to turn them in or help them escape.
[Call Number: J Avi](#)

Bruchac, an Abenaki descendant, lets a young boy tell the Native American side of a brutal 1759 raid on his people by British soldiers during the French and Indian Wars, as he bravely tracks and rescues his kidnapped family.
[Call Number: J Bru](#)

Although he cannot see as well as other boys, young Walnut develops his other senses and earns the name, “Sees Behind Trees.” With the wise elder, Gray Fire, he embarks on a journey to find the magical land of waters.
[Call Number: J Dor](#)

In 1738 Amari’s African village was attacked, her family killed, and she was taken to a South Carolina plantation. There she was exploited until she could escape to the Spanish territories in Florida that gave sanctuary to slaves.
[Call Number: J Dra](#)

Nine-year-old Elizabeth keeps a journal of life in America’s first European settlement of Jamestown, where she meets Indians, experiences hunger and loss, and helps build the family’s home. (*My America* series.)
[Call Number: J Her](#)

Young Mem gives an account of the terrible hardships that she and her family endured during the two month journey of the Mayflower in 1620, and life in the New World. *(Dear America series.)*

**Call Number: J Las**


Young William describes the mysterious colony, its settlers and the Croatoan natives, that disappeared when their governor returned to England to get supplies. Based on historical records (including the ship’s log).

**Call Number: J Lev**


In 1683 Molly Bannaky was unfairly accused of stealing and was sentenced to seven years as an indentured servant in the New World. She eventually bought her own farm, married, and became the grandmother of Benjamin Banneker.

**Call Number: J Mcg**


Esteban, (the first black man in America) describes his travels with Cabeza de Vaca and their companions as they journey across the American southwest to reunite with their countrymen. (Based on Cabeza’s journals.)

**Call Number: J Mir**


According to a Connecticut legend, on October 31, 1687 Captain Wadsworth secretly hid his Colony's charter in a tree and stopped the King's representative from taking it away.

**Call Number: J Mon**


In 1763, a young girl lives a quiet, peaceful life as a Pennsylvania Quaker, until she and her brother are captured by Lenape Indians. *(Dear America series.)*

**Call Number: J Osb**
Hiawatha seeks revenge for his Mohawk family’s murder after a bloody raid by the Onondaga, until he meets the Peacemaker, and joins him to unite the warring tribes who would someday become the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy.

**Call Number: J Rob**

Left alone to take care of the family’s wilderness home in the 1700s, Matt learns from his Indian neighbors how to survive on the family's Maine homestead.

**Call Number: J Spe**

Lenny and Liz travel back in time with their grandmother to 1621 Plymouth, where they meet the Mayflower Pilgrims and the native Wampanoag people, and learn about the harvest festival that we call the first Thanksgiving.

**Call Number: P J Sta**

A young Taino native of San Salvador recounts the first meeting between Columbus and his people in 1492, and voices his forebodings about this encounter.

**Call Number: P J Yol**

**Creating a Nation: The American Revolution: 1775 – 1783**

Tim Meeker is torn between his brave brother Sam, who joins the American Revolutionary forces, and his father and neighbors who support the British.

**Call Number: J Col**

Gilbert Stuart painted three portraits of George Washington. In this story, one of Stuart’s children writes to apologize for their bad behavior during his sitting. The rules of good behavior quoted in her letter are from a book that George learned as a boy.

**Call Number: J Cul**

In this classic novel, an injured, out-of-work Johnny Tremain is drawn into the American Revolution at the Boston Tea Party and the first skirmishes at Lexington and Concord.

**Call Number: J For**


Abigail chronicles life in Valley Forge through the winter of 1777 when General Washington makes camp near her home and prepares his troops to fight the British. (*Dear America* series.)

**Call Number: J Gre**


Sarah Bishop flees from the British forces and struggles to start a new life after her father and brother are killed fighting on opposite sides in the War for Independence.

**Call Number: J Ode**


After Hannah’s family is murdered by the British, she joins an American privateer ship seeking revenge. While hiding the fact that she is a girl, Hannah meets historical figures such as Paul Revere, and learns about the role of pirates in the Revolution.

**Call Number: J Pry**


A German baker uses his excellent skills to feed colonial soldiers and to help persuade British-hired German soldiers to defect to the American colonists’ side.

**Call Number: eBook** (go to the Cheng Library database, eBooks for Kids)


In this graphic novel, two young brothers end up on opposite sides of the American Revolution, and their ideals of patriotism, loyalty, and family are put to the test.

**Call Number: J Sch**
A Growing Nation: From the East Coast to the West Coast: 1784 - 1890

Young Catherine keeps a journal of life in a rural New England village from 1830 to 1832, as she helps an escaped slave and suffers the loss of her best friend.

Call Number: J Blo

Based on true stories of the author’s grandmother, this book describes many adventures of Caddie and her large family who lived on the Wisconsin frontier in the 1860’s.

Call Number: J Bri

Maria, a Mexican/Indian orphan, works for a rich family in California and witnesses the conflict between Mexico and the United States over land. (*Dear America* series.)

Call Number: J Gar

In 1857, thirteen-year old Hattie and her family join a wagon train and experience danger, romance, and excitement as they cross the country to reach their new Oregon home. (*Dear America* series.)

Call Number: J Gre

In 1849, Susanna’s physician father succumbs to gold fever and changes the family’s plans by heading to the gold fields of California instead of Oregon. (*Dear America* series.)

Call Number: J Gre

In 1848, Joshua describes his family’s six month passage on the Oregon Trail. Life in a covered wagon includes dust, heat, birth and death, hunting, friendship, and romance. (*My America* series.)

Call Number: J Her
After their mother’s death, Caleb and Anna’s father sends for a mail-order bride from Maine, who tells them she is “plain and tall.” They like the kind, capable Easterner and hope she will stay with them in their prairie home.

**Call Number:** J Mac

Fifteen-year-old Douglas Deeds kept a journal of his travels in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the winter of 1846-47 as a member of the ill-fated Donner Party. Some members of this starving and stranded group resorted to cannibalism to survive. (*Dear America* series.)

**Call Number:** J Phi

Nine-year-old Josefina, who lives on the New Mexico frontier, wants to give up playing the piano until she sees how much joy her music gives to her baby nephew. (*American Girls* collection.)

**Call Number:** [Small Book] J Tri

In 1851, “Runt”, the youngest son of a poor Chinese family, is sent to work in the California gold mines, and he records his adventures during the Gold Rush. (*My Name is America* series.)

**Call Number:** J Yep

---

**A Changing Nation: Immigration, Slavery, and Reform: 1814 - 1875**

Using free verse, and inspired by historical documents such as an 1828 “estate appraisal” giving the monetary value of its slaves, eleven slaves describe their lives and dreams.

**Call Number:** J Bry

Nine-year old Magulu is sold into slavery and ends up on the slave ship Amistad in 1839. The passengers mutiny, but Magulu and her fellow slaves must fight for their freedom in court. Based on historical letters, engravings, and newspapers of the period.

**Call Number:** J Edi

**Call Number: PJ Hea**

Lester, J. (2005). *Day of tears: A novel in dialogue*. New York, NY: Hyperion. (Grades 4-12). In 1859, the largest slave auction in America was held to pay off the owner’s gambling debts. This novel describes the terrible betrayal felt by a slave girl who had been promised her freedom, the owner’s children she cared for, and over 400 slaves.

**Call Number: J Les**


**Call Number: J Lev**

McCully, E. A. (1996). *The bobbin girl*. New York, NY: Dial Books. (Grades 3-5). A ten-year-old bobbin girl working in a textile mill in 1830’s Massachusetts, must decide if she will participate in the first workers’ strike in Lowell. (Based on a real girl.)

**Call Number: J Mcc**

Paterson, K. (1993). *Lyddie*. Thorndike, ME: Thorndike Press. (Grades 6-9). In the 1840’s, a young Vermont farm girl suffers terrible hardships in the Massachusetts’ mills to save her home and reunite her family.

**Call Number: J Pat**


**Call Number: P J Pol**


**Call Number: J Tur**
On Sundays in New Orleans, Louisiana slaves were allowed one day of freedom to visit, sing, dance, and play music. Although they could only meet in one place, they enjoyed the chance to gather and have at least one day of liberty.
**Call Number: J Wea**

Woodson intertwines her family’s oral history and their tradition of quilt-making to tell a tale in which quilts were used as secret maps for freedom-seeking slaves.
**Call Number: J Woo**

Corey’s 1857 journal describes his life of slavery in Kentucky and how he and his mother escape using the Underground Railroad to reunite with his father. (*My America* series.)
**Call Number: J Wye**

In 1867, a young boy is sent to America to join his father and other Chinese men working under brutal conditions on the Transcontinental Railroad in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
**Call Number: J Yep**

**A Divided Nation: U.S. Civil War: 1861 – 1865**

Newly enlisted Union recruit, Henry Fleming, worries about what he will do when the fighting begins. In his first battle he runs away from the carnage, but the following day he inadvertently joins the fighting, and is called a “hero.”
**Call Number: J Cra**

A boy visualizes the possible consequences if his father goes off to fight in the Civil War.
**Call Number: P J Lyo**

A fictionalized account describes young Fred Grant as he joins his father, General U.S. Grant, on the campaign to capture Vicksburg, one of the war’s most decisive battles.
**Call Number: J Mon**
In 1863, nine-year-old Virginia keeps a journal of all the terrible things she witnesses at the Battle of Gettysburg and its aftermath. (*My America* series.)

**Call Number: J Osb**

Charley is so eager to join the Civil War that he lies about his age and encounters some of its bloodiest battles. Wounded, he returns home suffering from “soldier’s heart,” which is now called post-traumatic stress disorder.

**Call Number: J Pau**

Homer runs away to rescue his older brother, who was sold into service in the Union Army. He encounters spies, abolitionists, and con men, but finally reunites with Harold at the Battle of Gettysburg.

**Call Number: J Phi**

**Reshaping the Nation: Western Frontier and Industrialization: 1866 – 1916**

Young Finn Reardon, a New York newspaper carrier, hopes to be a journalist someday and records his experiences living in the Bowery in 1899. (*Dear America* series.)

**Call Number: J Bar**

Peppe’s father is upset when he learns that Peppe has taken a job lighting the gas street lamps in his New York City neighborhood.

**Call Number: P J Bar**

Following her father’s death from an 1881 Nebraskan diphtheria epidemic, fourteen-year-old Sarah Jane finds work as a school teacher. (*Dear America* series.)

**Call Number: J Mur**

The hardships of mill work, immigrant life, unions, and homelessness are shown as Rosa and Jake get caught up in the 1912 “Bread and Roses” strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

**Call Number: J Pat**


Lillie visits her southern cousin and learns the origin of Juneteenth, a holiday marking the day Texan slaves learned they were free, 2 ½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

**Call Number: J Wes**


Two young girls growing up on the Wisconsin frontier help with the daily chores, enjoy their father's stories, and share special occasions with family and friends.

**Call Number: J Wil**

### The World at War: 1914 - 1918


Kathleen fills her diary as America enters the war in Europe, and her mother, sisters, and aunts fight for the right of women to vote. (*Dear America* series.)

**Call Number: J Las**


Fictionalized version of how a baby bear from Canada, adopted by a soldier heading to war in Europe, becomes the model for Winnie-the-Pooh.

**Call Number: P J Mat**


While war rages in Europe sixteen-year-old Hattie moves to Montana to claim her uncle’s homestead. Based on the true story of one of the author’s ancestors.

**Call Number: J Lar**


This story of World War I is told by Joey, an English farm horse, who recounts the danger, trials, and bravery of the war and his eventual reuniting with his boy, Albert.

**Call Number: J Mor**

PM, 3/08; Rev. LN, 5/19