

# Historical Fiction



*Stories that happened before  
you were born...*

*The past comes alive in these  
books from around the  
world.*



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Park, Linda Sue, *Keeping Score*

In Brooklyn in 1951, a die-hard Giants fan teaches nine-year-old Maggie, who is a "Bums" (Dodgers) fan, how to use a technique to keep score of a baseball game which creates a special friendship between them.

**SUBJECT:** *Baseball*

**Reading Level:** *4th — 6th grade*

Rinaldi, Ann, *The Redheaded Princess*

In 1542, nine-year-old Lady Elizabeth lives on an estate near London, striving to get back into the good graces of her father, King Henry VIII, and as the years pass she faces his death and those of other close relatives until she finds herself next in line to ascend the throne of England in 1558.

**SUBJECT:** *Elizabeth I, Queen of England*

**Reading Level:** *5th and up*

Speare, Elizabeth George, *The Bronze Bow*.

Daniel swears vengeance against the Romans who killed his parents. He becomes a member of an outlaw gang until he is forced to return to his village to take care of his sister. But even there he finds ways to fight against the Romans who rule his country.

**SUBJECT:** *Adventure*

**Reading Level:** *6th and up*

Spinelli, Jerry, *Milkweed*

In Warsaw in 1939, a boy wanders the streets and survives by stealing food for himself and other orphans. He wants to be a Nazi someday, with tall shiny boots and a gleaming eagle hat of his own. Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind.

**SUBJECT:** *World War II*

**Reading Level:** *5th and up*

Yep, Laurence, *Dragon's Gate*.

When he accidentally kills a Manchu, a Chinese boy is sent to America to join his father, an uncle, and other Chinese immigrants working to build a tunnel for the transcontinental railroad through the Sierra Nevada mountains in 1867.

**SUBJECT:** *Adventure*

**Reading Level:** *5th grade and up*

Most of these books can be found in the Fiction section under the author's last name.

*The exceptions include the call number in their entry.*

Beatty, Patricia, *Charley Skedaddle*

Twelve-year-old Charley Quinn, runs away from home and becomes a drummer in the Union Army. In his first battle he meets the horrors of war face to face and without a thought for his injured friend, "skedaddles" into the Virginia mountains. (JPB B)

*SUBJECT: American Civil War*

*Reading Level: 5th grade and up*

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker, *Jefferson's Sons*

A fictionalized look at the last twenty years of Thomas Jefferson's life at Monticello through the eyes of three of his slaves, two of whom were his sons by his slave, Sally Hemings.

*SUBJECT: Slavery*

*Reading Level: 6th and up*

Brink, Carol Ryrie, *Caddie Woodlawn*

Caddie was eleven in 1864. When she was young she was sickly, so her parents let her do anything she wanted. As a result she grew into a tomboy, a daredevil and a practical joker. This book covers a year in her life and the trouble she gets into with her family and friends.

*SUBJECT: Frontier Life*

*Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade*

Bunting, Eve, *S.O.S. Titanic*.

It is 1912 and fifteen-year-old Barry O'Neill is traveling from Ireland to America to seek his fortune. He thinks that he is lucky to be traveling on the maiden voyage of the Titanic, but finds his life endangered when the ship hits an iceberg and begins to sink.

*SUBJECT: Titanic*

*Reading Level: 4th — 7th grade*

Burnett, Francis Hodgson, *A Little Princess*.

When Sara Crewe arrives at Miss Minchin's London boarding school, she does indeed seem like a little princess until sudden tragedy changes her life forever.

*SUBJECT: Orphans*

*Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade*

Fleischman, Sid, *Ghost in the Noonday Sun*

Shanghaied aboard the villain Captain Scratch's ship, *Bloody Hand*, Oliver Finch sails the high seas in pursuit of the ghost of Gentleman Jack who paces his grave where pirate treasure lies buried.

*SUBJECT: Pirates*

*Reading Level: 5th — 6th grade*

Hesse, Karen, *Witness*

A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town.

*SUBJECT: Prejudices*

*Reading Level: 6th and up*

Levine, Kristin, *The Lions of Little Rock*

In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy 12-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

*SUBJECT: School integration, Race relations*

*Reading Level: 5th — 8th grade*

O'Dell, Scott, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.

When Russian and Aleut hunters come and kill many in the tribe, the Indians have no choice but to leave for the mainland. Karana, a young Indian girl, discovers that her little brother is not on board the ship. She jumps overboard and is left behind.

*SUBJECT: Adventure*

*Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade*

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.

*SUBJECT: Revolutionary War*

*Reading Level: 5th — 8th grade*