Historical Stories



Find stories that travel back in time to see what life and trials were like before you were born with some of our favorite historical fiction for school-age children.



PICTURE BOOKS AND YOUNGER ELEMENTARY



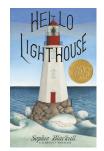
Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story by Lesléa Newman (Juvenile Picture Books-Ej New)

Gittel and her mother are planning to immigrate to the United States from Poland. When her mother is stopped by a health inspector, Gittel must continue the journey alone and find safety in this strange new land.



Overground Railroad by Lesa Cline-Ransome (Juvenile Picture Books-Ej Cli)

Looking for a better life than the sharecropping farm, Ruth and her parents journey into the unknown with thousands of other African Americans seeking better opportunities via northbound train. Written in short, but expressive, poetic lines, this tale of the Great Migration is engaging and rich.



Hello Lighthouse by Sophie Blackall (Juvenile Picture Books-Ej Bla)

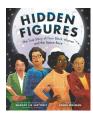
Explores the life of one lighthouse as it beams its message out to sea through shifting seasons, changeable weather, and the tenure of its final keeper.



OLDER ELEMENTARY

The Blackbird Girls by Anne Blankman (Juvenile Fiction–J Blankma)

Valentina and Oksana have always been enemies. When the nuclear power plant where their fathers work, Chernobyl, explodes they must work together to create a new future.



Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Laura Freeman

(Juvenile Nonfiction-J 920 She)

Explores the previously uncelebrated but pivotal contributions of NASA's African American women mathematicians to America's space program, describing how Jim Crow laws segregated them despite their groundbreaking successes.



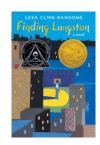
Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Juvenile Fiction–J Ryan)

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.



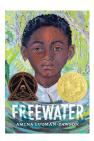
Love in the Library by Maggie Tokuda-Hall (Juvenile Picture Books-Ej Tok)

Tama is sent to live in a Japanese internment camp in the United States during World War II. Despite the harsh conditions and unfair treatment, she finds solace in her job at the library and in George, who waits at the library every morning with an arm full of books.



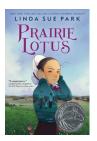
Finding Langston by Lesa Cline-Ransome (Juvenile Fiction-J Clinera)

Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.



Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson (Juvenile Fiction–J Luqmand)

Homer and his little sister Ada flee in the night in search of freedom, leaving behind their beloved mother behind on the plantation. They find refuge in a hidden community deep in the swamp with others who have escaped slavery. When Homer's new community and his mother are in threat of danger, he must make a plan to save the ones he loves.



visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

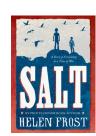
Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park (Juvenile Fiction - J Park)

Hanna travels with her father to start fresh with other settlers in Dakota territory. She works on getting an education, becoming a dressmaker in her father's shop, and making at least one friend while also navigating racism and prejudice in the small settler town for being half Chinese.



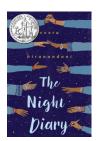
The Legend of Auntie Po by Shing Yin Khor (Juvenile Graphic Novels - J GN Khor Legend of Auntie Po)

Despite the racial tumult in the years after the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mei tries to remain focused on her job in the Sierra Nevada logging camp, her close friendship with the camp foreman's daughter, and telling stories about the legend Auntie Po.



Salt: A Story of Friendship in a Time of War by Helen Frost (Juvenile Fiction–J Frost)

Twelve-year-olds Anikwa, of the Miami village of Kekionga, and James, of the trading post outside Fort Wayne, find their friendship threatened by the rising fear and tension brought by the War of 1812.



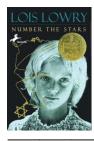
The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani (Juvenile Fiction–J Hiranan)

The 12-year-old daughter of a refugee family forced to flee their home in the aftermath of the 1947 separation of Pakistan and India embarks on a treacherous journey that she records in a series of letters written to her late mother.



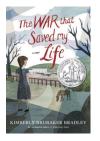
Show Me a Sign by Ann Clare LeZotte (Juvenile Fiction-J Lezotte)

Mary lives on Martha's Vineyard in 1805 where everyone knows sign language and a quarter of the population is also Deaf. When an outsider scientist comes into the community searching for the reason why so many of the island's inhabitants are Deaf, Mary soon finds herself in the middle of his heinous plans.



Number the Stars by Lois Lowry (Juvenile Fiction–J Lowry)

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.



The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (Juvenile Fiction–J Bradley)

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.



One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia (Juvenile Fiction-J Williams)

In the summer of 1968, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters travel from New York to California to spend a month with the mother they barely know. They arrive to a cold welcome, discovering that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their



We Dream of Space by Erin Entrada Kelly (Juvenile Fiction–J Kelly)

Three siblings alternate narration of their anxieties, hopes, and fears as they await the launch of the Space Shuttle Challeng-

