

# Suggested Reading List



## Old World Experience

### *Elementary and Middle Grade Level*

- [\*History and Activities of the West African Kingdoms\*](#), Gary Barr  
Through history, recipes, crafts, activities, and games this book gives you a chance to experience what life was like throughout history.
- [\*Food and Festivals: West Africa\*](#), Ali Bojang Brownlie  
Easy yet authentic recipes to become a part of the festivities.
- [\*Zomo the Rabbit, a Trickster Tale from West Africa\*](#), Gerald McDermott  
Zomo the rabbit, a trickster from West Africa, wants wisdom. But he must accomplish three apparently impossible tasks.
- [\*Ancient West African Kingdoms: Ghana, Mali, and Songhai\*](#), Mary Quigley  
Examines the social, economic, political, and cultural life of the people of ancient Ghana, Mali, and Songhai, including profiles of influential citizens.
- [\*At the Sign of the Sugared Plum\*](#), Mary Hooper  
17th Century England: Hannah moves to London to help in a candy shop, but she comes face to face with the Plague.
- [\*Sailing the Unknown: Around the World with Captain Cook\*](#), Michael J. Rosen  
18th Century England: an 11-year-old sailor named Nicholas took to the seas with British explorer James Cook.
- [\*The Dark Frigate\*](#), Charles Boardman Hawes  
In seventeenth century England, a terrible accident forces orphaned Philip Marsham to flee London in fear for his life.
- [\*A Slip of a Girl\*](#), Patricia Reilly Giff  
19th Century Ireland: Anna is a tenant farmer's daughter, but her home is under attack by the English lords seeking to remove the Irish.
- [\*Look What Came from Ireland\*](#), Miles Harvey  
Describes the many things that originally came from Ireland, such as holidays, food, sports, musical instruments, and fashion.

### *High School Level*

- [\*Mark of the Plague\*](#), Kevin Sands  
17th century England: The Black Death has returned to London, spreading disease and fear through town
- [\*A Curse Dark as Gold\*](#), Elizabeth C. Bunce  
18th Century England: Charlotte Miller has a chance to save her family's wool mill.
- [\*The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy\*](#), Laurence Sterne  
Laurence Sterne's great masterpiece of bawdy humor and rich satire defies any attempt to categorize it, with a rich metafictional narrative that might classify it as the first 'postmodern' novel.
- [\*The Lady's Guide to Petticoats and Piracy\*](#), Mackenzi Lee  
18th Century Germany: Felicity Montague must use all her womanly wits and wiles to achieve her dreams of becoming a doctor.

### *Adult/College Level*

- [\*Homegoing\*](#), Yaa Gyasi  
The generational story of two West African half-sisters, separated by forces beyond their control: one sold into slavery, the other married to a British slaver.
- [\*Things Fall Apart\*](#), Chinua Achebe  
A classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent.
- [\*The Nature of Monsters\*](#), Clare Clark  
18th Century England: Sixteen-year-old Eliza Tally arrives as an apothecary's maid.
- [\*Outlander Series\*](#), Diana Gabaldon  
A 1940s woman goes back in time to 1700s Scotland.
- [\*Restoration: a Novel of 17th Century England\*](#), Rose Tremain  
The main character Robert Merivel not only embodies the contradictions of his era, but ours as well.
- [\*Slammerkin\*](#), Emma Donoghue  
Born to rough cloth in Hogarth's London, Mary Saunders is led to prostitution at a young age.

## *Adult Non-fiction*

- [\*Diary of Samuel Pepys\*](#), Samuel Pepys  
Pepys' unabashed curiosity allows readers to experience firsthand accounts of the Great Fire of London, the horrors of the Plague, the display of the head of Oliver Cromwell at Westminster Hall, and more.
- [\*A Short History of Ireland, 1500-2000\*](#), John Gibney  
A brisk, concise, and readable overview of Irish history from the Protestant Reformation to the dawn of the twenty-first century.
- [\*The History of Western Africa\*](#), Amy McKenna  
This volume surveys the history of the many nations of western Africa.
- [\*Slave Narratives\*](#)  
Included in the volume: Narrative of the Most Remarkable Particulars in the Life of James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw; Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano; The Confessions of Nat Turner; Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass; Narrative of William W. Brown; Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Henry Bibb; Narrative of Sojourner Truth; Ellen and William Craft's Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom; Harriet Jacobs' Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl and Narrative of the Life of J. D. Green

## **Emigration and the Early American Experience**

### *Elementary and Middle Grade Level*

- [\*Born on the Water\*](#), Nikole Hannah-Jones  
The 1619 Project's lyrical picture book in verse chronicles the consequences of slavery and the history of Black resistance in the United States
- [\*Africa is My Home\*](#), Monica Edinger  
Inspired by a true account, a child arrives in America aboard the Amistad.
- [\*Sees Behind Trees\*](#), Michael Dorris  
16th Century America: A Native American boy with a special gift to "see" beyond his poor eyesight journeys with an old warrior to a land of mystery and beauty.
- [\*Children of the Longhouse\*](#), Joseph Bruchac  
15th Century America: Eleven-year-old Ohkwa'ri and his twin sister must make peace with a hostile gang of older boys in their Mohawk village
- [\*The Cabin Faced West\*](#), Jean Fritz  
Ten-year-old Ann overcomes loneliness and learns to appreciate the

importance of her role in settling the wilderness of western Pennsylvania.

- [\*Colonial Cooking\*](#), Susan Dosier  
Explore colonists' lives and what foods they ate.
- [\*Fort Mose: and the story of the man who built the first free black settlement in Colonial America\*](#), Glennette Tilley Turner  
Discover the story of Fort Mose in the only book for children about the first free Black community in America
- [\*The Wigwam and the Longhouse\*](#), Charlotte Yue  
Describes the history, customs, religion, government, homes, and present-day status of the various native peoples that inhabited the eastern woodlands
- [\*Peacemaker\*](#), Joseph Bruchac  
A twelve-year-old Iroquois boy rethinks his calling.
- [\*Blood on the River: James Town 1607\*](#), Elisa Lynn Carbone  
12-year-old Samuel becomes the page of Captain John Smith and boards the Susan Constant.
- [\*A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal, 1830-32\*](#), Joan W. Blos  
The journal of a fourteen-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town.
- [\*Virginia: The History of the Virginia Colony 1607-1776\*](#), Roberta Weiner  
A detailed look at the formation of the colony of Virginia.
- [\*Molly Bannaky\*](#), Alice McGill  
At the age of seventeen, the English dairymaid was exiled from her country and sentenced to work as an indentured servant in British Colonial America.
- [\*The Sign of the Beaver\*](#), Elizabeth George Speare  
A thirteen-year-old boy struggles to survive on his own in the wilderness of eighteenth-century Maine.
- [\*Indian Captive: The Story of Mary Jemison\*](#), Lois Lenski  
A fictional retelling of the experiences of twelve-year-old real life Mary Jemison.
- [\*Never Caught, the Story of Ona Judge\*](#), Erica Armstrong Dunbar  
The eye-opening narrative of Ona Judge.
- [\*Chains\*](#), Laurie Halse Anderson  
As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom.
- [\*Dear America: Standing in the Light\*](#), Mary Pope Osborne  
A young Quaker girl is kidnapped by the Lenape in 1763.
- [\*Jefferson's Sons: A Founding Father's Secret Children\*](#), Kimberly Brubaker Bradley  
The untold story of Thomas Jefferson's enslaved children.

- [\*Woods Runner\*](#), Gary Paulsen  
From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers and Indians who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community. Includes historical notes.

### *High School Level*

- [\*Witch Child\*](#), Celia Rees  
In 1659, fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans near Salem, Massachusetts.
- [\*Copper Sun\*](#), Sharon M. Draper  
Two fifteen-year-old girls—one a slave and the other an indentured servant—escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida.
- [\*Fever. 1793\*](#), Laurie Halse Anderson  
In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.
- [\*The Scarlet Letter\*](#), Nathaniel Hawthorne  
A dramatic, moving depiction of social defiance and social deference, of passion and human frailty.
- [\*The Last of the Mohicans\*](#), James Fenimore Cooper  
A romantic fiction of captivity and heroism, in which the destiny of the Mohicans Chingachgook and his son Uncas is inseparable from the lives of Alice and Cora Munro and of Hawkeye, the frontier scouts.

### *Adult/College Level*

- [\*Follow the River\*](#), James Alexander Thom  
Mary Ingles was twenty-three, happily married, and pregnant with her third child when Shawnee Indians came to her Virginia settlement.
- [\*The Kitchen House\*](#), Kathleen Grissom  
Orphaned during her passage from Ireland, young, white Lavinia arrives on the steps of the kitchen house and is placed, as an indentured servant, under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate slave daughter.
- [\*A Heart Adrift\*](#), Laura Frantz

It is 1755, and the threat of war with France looms over colonial York, Virginia. Chocolatier Esmée Shaw is fighting her own battle of the heart.

- [\*An Uncommon Woman\*](#), Laura Frantz  
Unflinching and plainspoken, Tessa Swan is not your typical 18th-century woman. Born and bred on the western Virginia frontier along with her five brothers, she is a force to be reckoned with.
- [\*My Heart Belongs in the Shenandoah Valley\*](#), Andrea Boeshaar  
Captain McAlister "Mac" Albright has purchased land in the Shenandoah Valley. However, the land belongs to Lillyanna Laughlin - or so she erroneously thinks. Mac set her straight and despite a poor start, the two become friends... if only he were financially stable enough to offer her more. How can Lily choose between love and economic security?
- [\*Into the Wilderness\*](#), Sara Donati  
A judge's daughter elopes with a white adventurer in Colonial America. Elizabeth arrived from England to marry a doctor, but is smitten by Nathaniel, a man raised by the Mohawks. The doctor, however, refuses to give her up and pursues them.

#### *Adult Non-fiction*

- [\*Hopeful Journeys. German immigration, settlement, and political culture in colonial America, 1717-1775\*](#), Aaron Spencer Fogelman  
In 1700, some 250,000 white and black inhabitants populated the thirteen American colonies, with the vast majority of whites either born in England or descended from English immigrants.
- [\*Ulster to America: the Scots-Irish Migration Experience\*](#), Warren R. Hofstra  
This book, by clearing away long-standing but erroneous ideas about the Scots-Irish, represents a major advance in our understanding of these immigrants.
- [\*Virginia 1619: Slavery and Freedom in the Making of English America\*](#), Paul Musselwhite  
Virginia 1619 provides an opportunity to reflect on the origins of English colonialism around the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic world.
- [\*A Brave and Cunning Prince: the great chief Opechancanough and the war for America\*](#), James P.P. Horn  
The extraordinary story of the Powhatan chief who waged a lifelong struggle to drive European settlers from his homeland.
- [\*Forced Founders: Indians, debtors, slaves, and the making of the American Revolution in Virginia\*](#), Woody Holton

Woody Holton shows that when Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and other elite Virginians joined their peers from other colonies in declaring independence from Britain, they acted partly in response to grassroots rebellions against their own rule.

- [\*The Virginia Germans\*](#), Klaus Wust  
Klaus Wust's comprehensive study of German settlement and integration in Virginia from 1608 until World War I proves to be a significant and colorful chapter in the state's history.
- [\*Pocahontas and the English Boys, caught between cultures in early Virginia\*](#), Karen Ordahl Kupperman  
The captivating story of four young people--English and Powhatan--who lived their lives between cultures.
- [\*Monacan Millennium : a collaborative archaeology and history of a Virginia Indian people\*](#), Jeffrey L. Hantman  
While Jamestown and colonial settlements dominate narratives of Virginia's earliest days, the land's oldest history belongs to its native people.
- [\*Augusta County : Virginia's Western Frontier\*](#), Gordon Barlow  
Augusta County, Virginia, a county in western Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley, once stretched to the Mississippi River. Book details the history (and prehistory) of this storied county that was once the western frontier of America.
- [\*Anne Orthwood's Bastard\*](#), John Ruston Page  
In 1663, an indentured servant, Anne Orthwood, was impregnated with twins in a tavern in Northampton County, Virginia.
- [\*The first frontier : the forgotten history of struggle, savagery, and endurance in early America\*](#), Scott Weidensaul  
Frontier: the word carries the inevitable scent of the West. But before Custer or Lewis and Clark, before the first Conestoga wagons rumbled across the Plains, it was the East that marked the frontier--the boundary between complex Native cultures and the first colonizing Europeans.
- [\*George Washington's Virginia\*](#), John R. Masse  
George Washington was first and foremost a Virginian. Born in the state's Tidewater region, he was reared near Fredericksburg and took up residence at Mount Vernon along the Potomac River.
- [\*"Esteemed Book of Lawe" and the legal culture of early Virginia\*](#), Warren M. Billings and Brent Tarter  
Virginia men of law constituted one of the first learned professions in colonial America, and Virginia legal culture had an important and lasting impact on American political institutions and jurisprudence.





## Westward Expansion and 19th Century America

### *Elementary and Middle Grade Level*

- [\*Going West: adapted from the Little house books by Laura Ingalls Wilder\*](#), Laura Ingalls Wilder  
A young pioneer girl and her family prepare to leave the big woods of Wisconsin and travel west in their covered wagon.
- [\*Covered Wagons, Bumpy Trails\*](#), Kay Verla  
Illustrations and simple rhyming text follow a family as they make the difficult journey by wagon to a new home across the Rocky Mountains.
- [\*A Covered Wagon Girl: The Diary of Sallie Hester\*](#), Sallie Hester  
Excerpts from the diary of Sallie Hester, a fourteen-year-old girl who tells her family's journey along the Oregon-California Trail during 1849-1850.
- [\*In the New World: a family in two centuries\*](#), Gerda Raidt  
Three centuries, two countries, one immigrant family.
- [\*Dandelions\*](#), Eve Bunting  
Embarking on a new life in a new place, Zoe and her family journey west to the Nebraska Territory in the 1800s.
- [\*Doe Sia: Bannock girl and the handcart pioneers\*](#), Kenneth Thomasma  
After meeting Emma, who is part of a band of Mormons making their way to Salt Lake City in 1856, Doe Sia, a young Bannock girl, proves her friendship when the two are caught in a brutal snow storm.
- [\*Crossing Bok Chitto: a Choctaw tale of friendship & freedom\*](#), Tim Tingle  
In the 1800s, a Choctaw girl becomes friends with a slave boy from a plantation across the great river, and when she learns that his family is in trouble, she helps them cross to freedom.
- [\*My Name is Sally Little Song\*](#), Brenda Woods  
When their enslaver plans to sell one of them in 1802, twelve-year-old Sally and her family run away from their Georgia plantation to look for both freedom from slavery and a home in Florida with the Seminole Indians.
- [\*How I Became a Ghost\*](#), Tim Tingle  
A Choctaw boy tells the story of his tribe's removal from its Mississippi homeland, and how its exodus to the American West led him to become a ghost -- one able to help those left behind.
- [\*Adaline Falling Star\*](#), Mary Pope Osborne  
Adaline Falling Star runs away from the prejudiced cousins with whom she is staying and comes close to death in the wilderness.

- [\*Dear America: A Picture of Freedom\*](#), Pat McKissack  
A young enslaved girl living in Virginia dreams of freedom.
- [\*Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from slavery to freedom\*](#), Virginia Hamilton  
Recounts the journey of enslaved Blacks to freedom via the underground railroad, an extended group of people who helped fugitive people in many ways.
- [\*Henry's Freedom Box\*](#), Ellen Levin  
An enslaved Virginia boy escapes to freedom.

### *High School Level*

- [\*Little Women\*](#), Louisa May Alcott  
Four girls grow up in 19th century New England.
- [\*So Many Beginnings: A Little Women Remix\*](#), Bethany C. Morrow  
Four young Black sisters come of age in 19th century North Carolina.
- [\*A Promising Life: A Coming of Age with America\*](#), Emily Arnold McCully  
All his life Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, son of Sacagawea and a French fur-trapper, has lived in two worlds: the "civilized" world of his godfather, William Clark, and the frontier world beyond St. Louis
- [\*Boston Jane\*](#), Jennifer L. Holm  
1855. The unknown wilds of the Pacific Northwest--a land not yet tamed, and certainly not fitting for a proper young lady!
- [\*Juba!\*](#), Walter Dean Myers  
In Five Points, New York, in the 1840s, African American teenager William Henry "Juba" Lane works hard to achieve his dream of becoming a professional dancer.
- [\*The Snow Fell Three Graves Deep: Voices from the Donner Party\*](#), Allan Wolf  
In 1846, a group of emigrants bound for California face a choice: continue on their planned route or take a shortcut into the wilderness.
- [\*Uncle Tom's Cabin\*](#), Harriet Beecher Stowe  
Uncle Tom, Topsy, Sambo, Simon Legree, little Eva- their names are American bywords, and all of them are characters in Harriet Beecher Stowe's remarkable novel of the pre-Civil War South.
- [\*O. Pioneers!\*](#), Willa Cather  
One of America's greatest women writers, Willa Cather established her talent and her reputation with this extraordinary novel--the first of her books set on the Nebraska frontier.

*Adult/College Level*

- [\*Blood Meridian\*](#), Cormac McCarthy  
Based on historical events that took place on the Texas–Mexico border in the 1850s, it traces the fortunes of the Kid, a fourteen-year-old Tennessean who stumbles into the nightmarish world where Indians are being murdered and the market for their scalps is thriving.
- [\*Cherokee America\*](#), Margaret Verble  
A baby, a black hired hand, a bay horse, a gun, and a neighbor have all gone missing in the same corner of the Cherokee Nation West
- [\*Strongheart: The Lost Journals of Mary Dodd and Molly McGill\*](#), Jim Fergus  
In 1873, a Cheyenne chief offers President Grant the opportunity to exchange one thousand horses for one thousand white women, in order to marry them with his warriors and create a lasting peace.
- [\*The Underground Railroad\*](#), Colson Whitehead  
Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hell for all the slaves, but especially bad for Cora; an outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood--where even greater pain awaits.
- [\*The Water Dancer\*](#), Ta-Nehisi Coates  
Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her--but was gifted with a mysterious power.
- [\*The House Girl\*](#), Tara Conklin  
The House Girl, the historical fiction debut by Tara Conklin, is an unforgettable story of love, history, and a search for justice, set in modern-day New York and 1852 Virginia.
- [\*Brides in the Sky\*](#), Cary C. Holladay  
In the title story, two women in 1850s Virginia marry brothers who promptly uproot them to follow the Oregon Trail west, until an unexpected shift of allegiance separates the sisters forever.
- [\*Yellow Wife\*](#), Sadeqa Johnson  
Born on a plantation but set apart from the others by her mother's position as a medicine woman, a young slave is forced to leave home at eighteen and unexpectedly finds herself in an infamously cruel jail.
- [\*Where the Lost Wander\*](#), Amy Harmon  
The Overland Trail, 1853: Naomi May never expected to be widowed at twenty. Eager to leave her grief behind, she sets off with her family for a life out West.

## *Adult Non-fiction*

- [\*Bound Away: Virginia and the Westward Movement\*](#), David Hackett Fischer and James C. Kelly  
Based on an acclaimed exhibition at the Virginia Historical society, the book studies three stages of migration to, within, and from Virginia.
- [\*Bound to the Fire: how Virginia's enslaved cooks helped invent American cuisine\*](#), Kelley Fanto Deetz  
This text not only uncovers their rich and complex stories and illuminates their role in plantation culture, but it celebrates their living legacy with the recipes that they created and passed down to future generations
- [\*Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey\*](#)  
An expanded edition of one of the most original and provocative works of American history of the last decade, which documents the pioneering experiences and grit of American frontier women.
- [\*The Pioneers: the heroic story of the settlers who brought the American Ideal West\*](#), David McCullough  
This is the story of the settlers who began America's migration west, overcoming almost-unimaginable hardships to build in the Ohio wilderness a town and a government that incorporated America's highest ideals.
- [\*Born of Lakes and Plains : mixed-descent peoples and the making of the American West\*](#), Anne Farrar Hyde  
A fresh history of the West grounded in the lives of mixed-descent Native families who first bridged and then collided with racial boundaries.

## **Natural Resources**

### *Elementary and Middle Grade Level*

- [\*The Water Princess\*](#), Susan Verde  
Based on supermodel Georgie Badiel's childhood, a young girl dreams of bringing clean drinking water to her African village
- [\*Hammering for Freedom\*](#), Rita L. Hubbard  
The inspirational story of William "Bill" Lewis, a hardworking blacksmith who slowly saved his money and bought the freedom of each and every member of his enslaved family.

- [\*Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave\*](#), Laban Carrick Hill  
1800's South Carolina; Dave is potter, but he faces the struggles of being a slave.
- [\*The Broken Blade\*](#), William Durbin  
In the summer of 1800, 13-year-old Pierre La Page never thought he'd be leaving Montreal to paddle 2,400 miles.
- [\*The Littlest Voyageur\*](#), Margi Preus  
In 1792, Jean Pierre Petit Le Rouge, a squirrel, eager for adventure, stows away in the canoe of a group of voyageurs, unaware of what they are traveling so far to trade.

### *High School*

- [\*Moby Dick\*](#), Herman Melville  
A nineteenth-century tale of life aboard a New England whaling ship whose captain is obsessed with the pursuit of a large white whale.
- [\*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn\*](#), Mark Twain  
The river in Twain's descriptions is a bewitching mixture of beauty and power, seductive calms and treacherous shoals, pleasure and terror, an image of the societies it touches and transports.
- [\*Walden\*](#), Henry David Thoreau  
Originally published in 1854, *Walden; or, Life in the Woods*, is a vivid account of the time that Henry D. Thoreau lived alone in a secluded cabin at Walden Pond.
- [\*Wintering\*](#), William Durbin  
In 1801, fourteen-year-old Pierre returns to work for the North West Fur Company and makes the long and difficult journey to a winter camp, where he learns from both the other voyageurs and from the Ojibwa Indians whose land they share.

### *Adult/College Level*

- [\*Barkskins\*](#), Annie Proulx  
In the late seventeenth century two young Frenchmen, René Sel and Charles Duquet, arrive in New France. Bound to a feudal lord for three years in exchange for land, they become wood-cutters--barkskins.
- [\*The Overstory\*](#), Richard Powers  
A novel of activism and natural-world power presents interlocking fables about nine remarkable strangers who are summoned in different ways by trees for an

ultimate, brutal stand to save the continent's few remaining acres of virgin forest.

- [\*Death of a Dyer\*](#), Eleanor Kuhns  
Returning to his family farm in 1796 and considering a relationship with his housekeeper, widower Will Rees is shattered by the news of an old friend's murder and is unable to refuse a request to investigate.

### *Non-Fiction*

- [\*Worn: A People's History of Clothing\*](#), Sofi Thanhauser  
A sweeping and captivatingly told history of clothing and the stuff it is made of--an unparalleled deep-dive into how everyday garments have transformed our lives, our societies, and our planet.
- [\*The Source: how rivers made America and America remade its rivers\*](#), Martin Doyle  
How rivers have shaped American politics, economics, and society from the beginnings of the Republic to today.
- [\*Black Flags. Blue Waters: the epic history of America's most notorious pirates\*](#), Eric Jay Dolin  
A chronicle of America's "Golden Age" of piracy, from the late 1600s to the early 1700s, describes how American colonists initially supported, and then violently opposed, pirates that targeted the North American coast.

## **Early American Education (Schoolhouse)**

### *Elementary and Middle Grade Level*

- [\*Kirsten Learns A Lesson: A School Story\*](#), Janet Beeler Shaw  
After immigrating from Sweden to join relatives in an American prairie community, Kirsten endures the ordeal of a strange school through a secret friendship with an Indian girl.
- [\*One Room School\*](#), Bobbie Kalman  
Explore inside a one-room schoolhouse and see what subjects were taught, how students were disciplined, and what games boys and girls enjoyed during recess.
- [\*One Room School\*](#), Raymond Bial  
Presents a brief history of the one-room schools that existed in the United States from the 1700s to the 1950s.
- [\*The Teacher's Funeral\*](#), Richard Peck

Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."

- [\*A Day in the Life of a Colonial School Teacher\*](#), Kathy Wilmore  
Describes a day in a Colonial American dame school, including who attended, what they learned, and what chores they did.
- [\*Don't Whistle in School: The History of America's Public Schools\*](#), Ruth Tenzer Feldman  
A full description of what America's public school history looks like.
- [\*Going to School in Pioneer Times\*](#), Kerry A. Graves  
Discusses the school life of children in pioneer times, including lessons, books, teachers, examinations, and special days. Includes activities.
- [\*Dear America: My Face to the Wind\*](#), Jim Murphy  
In the late 1870s, many young teachers traveled West to earn money and make a new life for themselves.
- [\*Little Town on the Prairie\*](#), Laura Ingalls Wilder  
Pa's homestead thrives, Laura gets her first job in town, blackbirds eat the corn and oats crops, Mary goes to college, and Laura gets into trouble at school, but becomes a certified school teacher.
- [\*Hornbooks and Inkwells\*](#), Kay Verla  
Two brothers spend a year attending a one-room schoolhouse on the frontier.

### *High School*

- [\*Anne of Avonlea\*](#), L.M. Montgomery  
In this sequel to *Anne of Green Gables*, teenaged Anne Shirley becomes a schoolteacher in a small village on Prince Edward Island.
- [\*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow\*](#), Washington Irving  
Here you will meet the tall, gangly Ichabod Crane, the schoolmaster who is as much in love with Katrina Van Tassel's fortune as he is with the beautiful Katrina herself.
- [\*Christy\*](#), Catherine Marshall  
When nineteen-year-old Christy Huddleston leaves home to teach school in the Smokies, the primitive surroundings will inspire love for the people while her faith is severely tested by the unique strengths and needs of two remarkable young men.



- [\*Little Men\*](#), Louisa May Alcott  
*Little Men* was first published in 1871. It follows the adventures of Jo March and her husband Professor Bhaer as they try to make their school for boys a happy, comfortable, and stimulating place.

*Adult/College Level*

- [\*Schoolhouse Brides\*](#), Yvonne Lehman  
Complications abound as love is encountered by four young schoolmarm in bygone days.
- [\*My Heart Belongs in the Blue Ridge\*](#), Pepper Basham  
In the Blue Ridge Mountains, Laurel McAdams endures the challenges of a hard life while dreaming things can eventually improve. But trouble arrives in the form of an outsider.

## **Early American Economics**

*Elementary and Middle Grade Level*

- [\*The History of Money\*](#), Martin Jenkins  
With clarity and humor, Martin Jenkins and Satoshi Kitamura take readers on a fascinating tour of the history of money.
- [\*Let's Trade\*](#), Nancy Loewen  
A quick introduction for kids about bartering.
- [\*Dear America: So Far From Home\*](#), Berry Deneberg  
1847; A young Irish immigrant girl writes about her experience in a mill.
- [\*Johnny Tremain\*](#), Esther Forbes  
After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.
- [\*Captain Kate\*](#), Carolyn Reeder  
Determined to take her father's coal-carrying barge on the C & O Canal from Cumberland, Maryland, to Georgetown in D.C., twelve-year-old Kate learns hurtful truths about herself.
- [\*The Early American Industrial Revolution: 1793-1850\*](#), Katie Bagley  
Follows the development of the American Industrial Revolution from 1793 to 1850, including the major industrial inventions and advances of the time period.

*High School Level*

- [\*1632\*](#), Eric Flint  
The Thirty Years War Meets the American Way When Grantville, W. Va., was suddenly hurled from 2000 back to 1632, they landed in the middle of the Thirty Years War.
- [\*Roots: The Saga of an American Family\*](#), Alex Haley  
Beginning with a birth in Africa to two centuries later in Arkansas.

#### *Adult/College Level*

- [\*The House of Mirth\*](#), Edith Wharton  
*The House of Mirth* shocked the New York society it so deftly chronicles, portraying the moral, social and economic restraints on a woman.
- [\*The Signature of All Things\*](#), Elizabeth Gilbert  
The story of Alma Whittaker, who--born in the Age of Enlightenment, but living well into the Industrial Revolution--bears witness to that extraordinary moment in human history when all the old assumptions about science, religion, commerce, and class were exploding into dangerous new ideas.
- [\*Days Without End\*](#), Sebastian Barry  
Thomas McNulty, aged barely seventeen and having fled the Great Famine in Ireland, signs up for the U.S. Army in the 1850s. With his brother in arms, John Cole, Thomas goes on to fight in the Indian Wars--against the Sioux and the Yurok--and, ultimately, the Civil War. Orphans of terrible hardships themselves, the men find these days to be vivid and alive, despite the horrors they see and are complicit in.
- [\*Twelve Years a Slave\*](#), Solomon Northup  
Perhaps the best written of all the slave narratives, *Twelve Years a Slave* is a harrowing memoir about one of the darkest periods in American history.

#### *Adult Non-Fiction*

- [\*Colonial Craftsmen and the beginnings of American Industry\*](#), Edwin Tunis  
The vanished ways of colonial America's skilled craftsmen are vividly reconstructed in this superb book by Edwin Tunis.
- [\*The American Slave Coast: A History of the Slave-Breeding Industry\*](#), Ned Sublette  
The American Slave Coast tells the horrific story of how the slavery business in the United States made the reproductive labor of "breeding women" essential to the expansion of the nation.

- [\*Mill\*](#), David Macaulay  
The mills at Wicksbridge are imaginary, but their planning, construction, and operation are quite typical of mills developed in New England throughout the nineteenth century.

## Interpretive Staff Selections

- [\*The Birth of Black America\*](#), Tim Hashaw  
Four hundred years after the birth of English-speaking America, as a nation turns its attention to its ancestry, *The Birth of Black America* reconstructs the true origins of the United States and of the African-American experience.
- [\*Dunmore's War: The Last Conflict of America's Colonial Era\*](#), Glenn F. Williams  
Known to history as "Dunmore's War," the 1774 campaign against a Shawnee-led Indian confederacy in the Ohio Country marked the final time an American colonial militia took to the field in His Majesty's service and under royal command
- [\*The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777\*](#), Rick Atkinson  
Full of riveting details and untold stories, *The British Are Coming* is a tale of heroes and knaves, of sacrifice and blunder, of redemption and profound suffering. Rick Atkinson has given stirring new life to the first act of our country's creation drama.