

Historical Fiction



for Young Adults

Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance

YFIC Avi

Crispin: the Cross of Lead, by Avi

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in 14th-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

YFIC Cooney, C; YRACK COO

Goddess of Yesterday, by Caroline B. Cooney

Taken from her home on an Aegean island as a six-year-old girl, Anaxandra calls on the protection of her goddess while she poses as two different princesses over the next six years, before ending up as a servant in the company of Helen and Paris as they make their way to Troy.

YFIC Cushman, K / YRACK CUS

The Midwife's Apprentice, by Karen Cushman

A homeless girl in medieval England hopes an apprenticeship with a midwife will help her find a place in the world.

*Also try other books by Karen Cushman

YFIC Konigsburg / JFIC Konigsburg

The Second Mrs. Giaconda, by E. L. Konigsburg

Leonardo Da Vinci's valet tells the story behind the Mona Lisa's smile.

YFIC McCaughrean

The Kite Rider, by Geraldine McCaughrean

Haoyou becomes a circus kite rider and meets Mongol ruler Kublai Khan in 13th century China.

YFIC Namioka

Island of Ogres By Lensey Namioka

A has-been samurai regains self-respect when he thwarts plans of a rebel invasion of a small island.

YFIC O'Dell / YPB RACK ODE

The Serpent Never Sleeps : a Novel of Jamestown and

Pocahontas By Scott O'Dell

Set in the early 17th century, Serena Lynn travels to the New World to join the man she loves.

1700s – 1800s

YFIC Anderson

Fever 1793, by Laurie Halse Anderson

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

YFIC Clapp

The Tamarack Tree: a Novel of the Siege of Vicksburg By Patricia Clapp

Eighteen-year-old Rosemary, an English girl, endures the forty-seven day siege of Vicksburg.

YFIC Collier / YRACK COL

War Comes to Willy Freeman

By James Lincoln Collier, Christopher Collier

Thirteen-year-old Willy fears being returned to slavery during the Revolution when her father is killed and her mother disappears.

YFIC Durrant, L

My Last Skirt : the story of Jennie Hodgers, Union soldier, by Lynda Durrant

Enjoying the freedom afforded her while dressing as a boy in order to earn higher pay after emigrating from Ireland, Jennie Hodgers serves in the 95th Illinois Infantry as Private Albert Cashier, a Union soldier in the American Civil War

YFIC Fox / Y RACK FOX / JFIC Fox, P

The Slave Dancer By Paula Fox

Thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers to his horror he has been kidnapped by slavers to play music for the slaves' exercise periods.

YFIC Hoobler

The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn, by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler

While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikei, a merchant's son who longs to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan.

YFIC Lavender

Just Jane, by William Lavender

14-year-old Jane Prentice, orphaned daughter of an English earl, arrives in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1776 to find her family and her loyalties divided over the question of American independence.

YFIC Lester

Day of Tears: a novel in dialogue, by Julius Lester

Emma has taken care of the Butler children since Sarah and Frances's mother, Fanny, left. Now, to pay off debts, Pierce Butler wants to cash in his slave "assets", possibly including Emma.





YFIC Reeder

Before the Creeks Ran Red, by Carolyn Reeder

Through the eyes of three different boys, three linked novellas explore the tumultuous times beginning with the secession of South Carolina and leading up to the first major battle of the Civil War.

YFIC Smith, R

The Captain's Dog : my journey with the Lewis and Clark tribe, by Roland Smith

Captain Meriwether Lewis's dog Seaman describes his experiences as he accompanies his master on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the uncharted western wilderness.

YFIC Wilson, D

Black Storm Comin', by Diane Lee Wilson

Twelve-year-old Colton, son of a black mother and a white father, takes a job with the Pony Express in 1860, and risks his life to deliver an important letter that may affect the growing conflict between the North and South.

1900 – 1940

YRACK BUN

SOS Titanic By Eve Bunting

Fifteen-year-old Barry must face vengeful boys in steerage and his steward's dire predictions for the Titanic's maiden voyage.

YFIC Hesse, K

Out of the Dust By Karen Hesse

Through a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

YFIC Hunt, I / JPB Hunt, I

No Promises in the Wind By Irene Hunt

Josh takes on responsibilities beyond his years during the Great Depression.

YFIC Paterson, K

Bread and Roses, Too, by Katherine Paterson

Jake and Rosa, two children, form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

World War II

YFIC Hesse

Aleutian Sparrow, by Karen Hesse

An Aleutian Islander recounts her suffering during World War II in American internment camps designed to "protect" the population from the invading Japanese.

YFIC Kerr, M

Slap Your Sides, by M. E. Kerr

Life in their Pennsylvania hometown changes for Jubal Shoemaker and his family when his older brother witnesses to his Quaker beliefs by becoming a conscientious objector during World War II.

YFIC Laird / YRACK LAI

Shadow of the Wall By Christa Laird

Depicts a teenage Jewish boy's life in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II.

YPB RACK YOL / YRACK YOL

The Devil's Arithmetic By Jane Yolen

Bored by stories of the Holocaust, Hannah is transported back to 1940s Poland and experiences this nightmarish time.

1950s

YFIC Szablya, H

Fall of the Red Star By Helen M. Szablya

Stephen, a member of the Hungarian secret police, struggles to keep the Russian tanks from returning to his beloved Budapest.

YFIC Levine, E

Catch a Tiger by the Toe, by Ellen Levine

In the Bronx, New York, during the McCarthy era, twelve-year-old Jamie keeps a terrible secret about her family, but when the truth is exposed, her parents lose their jobs and she is fired from the school newspaper

1960s

YFic Armistead, J

The Return of Gabriel, by John Armistead

In the summer of 1964, a thirteen-year-old white boy whose best friend is black is caught in the middle when civil rights workers and Ku Klux Klan members clash in a small town near Tupelo, Mississippi.

YFIC Curtis, C / YRACK CUR

The Watsons go to Birmingham--1963

By Christopher Paul Curtis

The ordinary lives of an African-American family are forever changed after a visit to Alabama in the summer of 1963.

YFIC White, E / YRACK WHI

The Road Home By Ellen Emerson White

Rebecca, a nurse stationed in Vietnam, must come to grips with her wartime experiences once she returns home.

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