

Chains—Revolutionary War America (YA AND)

by Laurie Halse Anderson

When their owner dies at the start of the Revolution, Isabel and her younger sister are sold to Loyalists in New York, where Isabel is offered the chance to spy for the Patriots.

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing: The Fox Party—Revolutionary War America (YA AND, e-audio*)

by M.T. Anderson

Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead—1300s England
(YA AVI, YA LP AVI, YA CD AVI, e-book*)

by Avi

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

The Shakespeare Stealer—1500-1600 England
(YA BLA, e-book*)

by Gary L. Blackwood

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

Code Talker—WWII (YA BRU, YA CD BRU)

by Joseph Bruchac

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Ship of Fire—1587 England (YA CAD)

by Michael Cadnum

In 1587, sailing to Spain on board Sir Francis Drake's ship "Elizabeth Bonaventure," seventeen-year-old surgeon's apprentice Thomas Spyre finds that, with the sudden death of his master, he must take over as ship's surgeon and prove his skill not only as a doctor but also as a fighter when he is enlisted by Drake to face battle.

Revolution is Not a Dinner Party—1970s China
(YA COM, YA CD COM)

by Ying Chang Compestine

Starting in 1972 when she is nine years old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors, struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution, which empties stores of food, homes of appliances deemed "bourgeois," and people of laughter.

I Am Rembrandt's Daughter—1600s Netherlands (YA CUL)

by Lynn Cullen

In Amsterdam in the mid-1600s, Cornelia's life as the illegitimate child of renowned painter Rembrandt is marked by plague, poverty, and despair at ever earning her father's love, until she sees hope for a better future in the eyes of a wealthy suitor.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963—1960s America
(YA CUR, YA LP CUR, YA CD CUR, e-book*, e-audio*)

by Christopher Paul Curtis

Enter the world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the "weird" Watsons of Flint, Michigan. When Mom and Dad decide to visit Grandma, the Watsons head off to Birmingham, Alabama, where they witness a tragic historic event.

Catherine, Called Birdy—Medieval England
(YA CUS, YA CD CUS, e-book*)

by Karen Cushman

The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

Revolution—1780s France (YA DON, YA CD DON, e-audio*)

by Jennifer Donnelly

An angry, grieving seventeen-year-old musician facing expulsion from her prestigious Brooklyn private school travels to Paris to complete a school assignment and uncovers a diary written during the French revolution by a young actress attempting to help a tortured, imprisoned little boy—Louis Charles, the lost king of France.

Crossing Stones—WWI America (YA FRO)

by Helen Frost

In their own voices, four young people, Muriel, Frank, Emma, and Ollie, tell of their experiences during the first World War, as the boys enlist and are sent overseas, Emma finishes school, and Muriel fights for peace and women's suffrage.

Leonardo's Shadow—1400s Italy (YA GRE)

by Christopher Peter Grey

Fifteen-year-old Giacomo—servant to Leonardo da Vinci—helps his procrastinating master finish painting "The Last Supper" while also trying to find clues to his parentage and pursue his own career as an artist in late fifteenth-century Milan.

Witness—1920s America (YA HES, YA CD HES)

by Karen Hesse

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.

Boston Jane: An Adventure—1854 America (YA HOL)

by Jennifer L. Holm

Schooled in the lessons of etiquette for young ladies of 1854, Miss Jane Peck of Philadelphia finds little use for manners during her long sea voyage to the Pacific Northwest and while living among the American traders and Chinook Indians of Washington Territory.

Five 4ths of July—Revolutionary War America (YA HUG)

by Pat Hughes

On July 4, 1777, fourteen-year-old Jake Mallory and his friends are celebrating their new nation's independence, but over the next four years Jake finds himself in increasingly adventurous circumstances as he battles British forces, barely survives captivity on a prison ship, and finally returns home to Connecticut, war-torn and weary, but hopeful for America's future.

Bone by Bone by Bone—1950s America (YA JOH)

by Tony Johnston

In 1950s Tennessee, ten-year-old David's racist father refuses to let him associate with his best friend Malcolm, an African American boy.

Weedflower—WWII America (YA KAD)

by Cynthia Kadohata

After twelve-year-old Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their flower farm in southern California to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she helps her family and neighbors, becomes friends with a local Indian boy, and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop.

Hattie Big Sky—WWI America

(YA LAR, YA CD LAR, e-book*, e-audio*)

by Kirby Larson

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

Pharaoh's Daughter—Ancient Egypt (YA LES)

by Julius Lester

A fictionalized account of a Biblical story in which an Egyptian princess rescues a Hebrew infant who becomes a prophet of his people while his sister finds her true self as a priestess to the Egyptian gods.

The King's Rose—1600s (YA LIB)

by Alisa M. Libby

Catharine Howard recounts the events in her life that led to her being groomed for marriage at the age of fifteen to King Henry VIII, her failure to produce an heir to the throne, and her quick execution.

The Rock and the River—1960s America (YA MAG)

by Kekla Magoon

In 1968 Chicago, fourteen-year-old Sam Childs is caught in a conflict between his father's nonviolent approach to seeking civil rights for African Americans and his older brother, who has joined the Black Panther Party.

The Kite Rider - 1200 China (YA MCC)

by Geraldine McCaughrean

In thirteenth-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, twelve-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

Coal Black Horse - Civil War America (YA OLM)

by Robert Olmstead

When Robey Child's mother experiences a premonition about her husband, a Civil War soldier, she sends her only son to retrieve his father from the battlefield, accompanied by a horse that becomes his only companion as he makes his way through the destruction of war.

When My Name Was Keoko - WWII Korea

(YA PAR, YA CD PAR)

by Linda Sue Park

With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.

Woods Runner—Revolutionary War America

(YA PAU, YA CD PAU, e-book*)

by 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.

On the Wings of Heroes—WWII America

(YA PEC, YA CD PEC)

by Richard Peck

A boy in Illinois remembers the home-front years of World War II, especially his two heroes—his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war.

Three Rivers Rising: A Novel of the Johnstown Flood—

1880s America (YA RIC, e-book*)

by Jame Richards

Sixteen-year-old Celestia is a wealthy member of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club, where she meets and falls in love with Peter, a hired hand who lives in the valley below, and by the time of the torrential rains that lead to the disastrous Johnstown flood of 1889, she has been disowned by her family and is staying with him in Johnstown.

My Brother's Shadow—1918 Germany (YA SCH)

by Monika Schroder

In 1918 Berlin, Germany, sixteen-year-old Moritz struggles to do what is right on his newspaper job, in his relationship with his mother and his sister who are outspoken socialists, and with his brother, who returns from the war physically and emotionally scarred.

Cleopatra's Moon—Ancient Egypt and Rome (YA SHE)

by Vicky Shecter

Cleopatra Selene, the only surviving daughter of Cleopatra and Marc Antony, recalls her life of pomp and splendor in Egypt and, after her parents' death, captivity and treachery in Rome.

Flygirl—WWII America (YA SMI)

by Sherri Smith

During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

The Brothers Story—1700s England (YA STU)

by Katherine Sturtevant

In the late seventeenth century, fifteen-year-old Kit, driven to desperation by the starvation of one brother and mistreatment of his own simple-minded twin, realizes his dream of becoming an apprentice in London but feels drawn by duty to return home to Essex.

The Land - Reconstruction America (YA TAY, YA CD TAY)

by Mildred Taylor

After the Civil War Paul, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between the two worlds of colored folks and white folks as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own.

The Edge on the Sword - 800 Britain (YA TIN)

by Rebecca Tingle

In ninth-century Britain, fifteen-year-old Aethelflaed, daughter of King Alfred of West Saxony, finds she must assume new responsibilities much sooner than expected when she is betrothed to Ethelred of Mercia in order to strengthen a strategic alliance against the Danes.

Code Name Verity—WWII France and England (YA WEI)

by Elizabeth Wein

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must do to survive while keeping secret all she can.

Red Moon at Sharpsburg—Civil War America (YA WEL)

by Rosemary Wells

As the Civil War breaks out, India, a young Southern girl, summons her sharp intelligence and the courage she didn't know she had to survive the war that threatens to destroy her family, her Virginia home, and the only life she has ever known.

Angel on the Square - 1913 Russia (YA WHE)

by Gloria Whelan

In 1913 Russia, twelve-year-old Katya eagerly anticipates leaving her St. Petersburg home, though not her older cousin Misha, to join her mother, a lady in waiting in the household of Tsar Nicholas II, but the ensuing years bring world war, revolution, and undreamed of changes to her life.

Black Storm Comin'—1860 Western America (YA WIL)

by Diane L. Wilson

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

The Book Thief—WWII Germany (YAZUS, YACDZUS, e-audio*, e-book)

by Markus Zusak

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

* Items marked, "e-audio" or "e-book" are available for download from the Ames Public Library website. Please ask a Librarian for assistance.

