

HISTORICAL FICTION

United States - 1800's

Part I – California, the Gold Rush, and Western Expansion

All titles are available in the Santa Cruz Public Library System,
Juvenile and Young Adult Departments.

California and the Gold Rush

- Cushman, Karen. *BALLAD OF LUCY WHIPPLE*
California Gold Rush, 1849
J Fiction (4-6 gr.) c1996
In 1849, 12-year-old California Morning Whipple, who renames herself Lucy, is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a rough California mining town.
- Faber, Gail. *CLARA RIDES THE RANCHO*
California, 1840's
J Fiction c2001
Life on a California Rancho, seen through the eyes of 9-year-old Clara Allen, formerly of Boston.
- Faber, Gail. *CLARA ROUNDS CAPE HORN*
Boston to Monterey, California, 1845
J Fiction c1997
The story of a sea voyage from Boston to Alta, California, as seen through the eyes of a 9-year-old girl.
- Fleischman, Sid. *BANDIT'S MOON*
California, mid-1800's
J Fiction c1998
12-year-old Annyrose relates her adventures with Joaqu  n Murieta and his band of outlaws in the California gold-mining region during the mid-1800s.
- Fleischman, Sid. *BY THE GREAT HORN SPOON!*
California, 1849
J Fiction (4-6 gr.) c1963
The story of a young boy who lives with his proper Bostonian aunts and their very correct butler. When their money runs perilously low, the boy and the butler stow away on a ship bound for the gold fields of California and have many adventures.
- Fleischman, Sid. *GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA, OR PIRATES GALORE*
California, 1846
J Fiction c2005
A cabin boy on a pirate ship finds himself in San Diego in 1846 as war breaks out between the U.S. and Mexico.
- Fletcher, Susan. *WALK ACROSS THE SEA*
California, late 1800's
J Fiction c2001
In late 19th-century California, when Chinese immigrants are being driven out or even killed for fear they will take jobs from whites, 15-year-old Eliza Jane McCully defies the townspeople and her lighthouse-keeper father to help a Chinese boy who has been kind to her.
- Gregory, Kristiana. *ORPHAN RUNAWAYS*
San Francisco, 1878-
J Fiction c1998
Harrowing adventures accompany 12-year-old Danny and his younger brother Judd when they run away from a San Francisco orphanage and search for their uncle (who is involved with a Chinese woman) in a gold rush boomtown.
- Gregory, Kristiana. *THE STOWAWAY: A TALE OF CALIFORNIA PIRATES*
Monterey, California, 1818
J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1995
In 1818 Carlito, an 11-year-old boy in the Spanish-owned town of Monterey, California, sees his quiet life threatened when the Argentinian privateer Hippolyte de Bouchard attacks with his pirate ships.
- Hoobler, Dorothy. *TREASURE IN THE STREAM: THE STORY OF A GOLD RUSH GIRL*
California, 1848
J Fiction (4-6 gr.) c1991
The lives of 10-year-old Amy and the members of her farming family are changed forever when gold is discovered on Mr. Sutter's land.
- Leland, Dorothy. *BALLOON BOY OF SAN FRANCISCO*
California, 1853
J Fiction c2005
In 1853, a San Francisco newspaper boy struggles to support his family. An encounter with a hot-air balloon brings adventure and opportunity.
- Pfitsch, Patricia. *RIDING THE FLUME*
Northern California, 1894
J Fiction c2002
In 1894, 15-year-old Francie determines to fight the lumbermen and protect the largest Sequoia tree ever seen, which had been given to her sister just before her death six years earlier.
- Ryan, Pam Munoz. *RIDING FREEDOM*
California, mid-late 1800's
J Fiction c1998
A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance.
- Uchida, Yoshiko. *SAMURAI OF GOLD HILL*
El Dorado County, California, 1869
J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1972
Seeking a new life in 19th-century California with his samurai father, a young Japanese finds it difficult to adjust to the idea of being a farmer and not a samurai.
- Wood, Frances M. *DAUGHTER OF MADRUGADA*
California, 1840's
J Fiction c2002
After the U.S. wins the war with Mexico in 1848, life on her Mexican family's ranch in California is greatly changed for 13-year-old Cesa.
- Yee, Paul. *TALES FROM GOLD MOUNTAIN: STORIES OF THE CHINESE IN THE NEW WORLD*
United States, 1800's
J Fiction (5-12 gr.) c1989
A collection of eight stories reflecting the gritty optimism of the Chinese who overcame prejudice and adversity to build a unique place for themselves in North America.

California and the Gold Rush

(continued)

Yep, Laurence. DRAGON'S GATE
(sequel to MOUNTAIN LIGHT)
California, 1867
J Fiction (6-9 gr.) c1993

When he accidentally kills a Manchu, a 15-year-old Chinese boy is sent to America to join his father, an uncle, and other Chinese working to build a tunnel for the transcontinental railroad through the Sierra Nevada mountains in 1867.

Yep, Laurence. MARK TWAIN MURDERS
San Francisco, 1864
J Fiction (5-9 gr.) c1982

In the summer of 1864, a teen-age boy meets reporter Mark Twain in San Francisco after a murder, and agrees to help him get the story.

Yep, Laurence. MOUNTAIN LIGHT
China and California, mid-1800's
J Fiction c1985

Swept up in one of the local rebellions against the Manchus in China, 19-year-old Squeaky loses his home and travels to America to seek his fortune among the gold fields of California.

Westward Expansion: The Journey

Ackerman, Karen. ARAMINTA'S PAINT BOX
Boston to California, 1847
J Fiction (2-4 gr.) c1990

When her family moves from Boston to California in 1847, Araminta and her paint box become separated, but through a series of new owners, the paint box finds its way to California.

Auch, Mary Jane. JOURNEY TO NOWHERE
Connecticut to New York, 1815
J Fiction (4-7 gr.) c1997

In 1815, while traveling by covered wagon to settle in the wilderness of western New York, 11-year-old Mem experiences a flood and separation from her family. (Sequel is FROZEN SUMMER)

Cannon, A. E. CHARLOTTE'S ROSE
Mormon trail (Iowa City to Utah), 1856
J Fiction c2002

As a 12-year-old Welsh immigrant carries a motherless baby along the Mormon Trail in 1856, she comes to love the baby as her own and fear the day the baby's father will reclaim her.

Coville, Bruce. FORTUNE'S JOURNEY
East coast to California, 1853
J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1996

16-year-old Jenny faces many challenges on an overland journey to California in 1853 with the acting company that she inherited from her father.

Hermes, Patricia. PERFECT PLACE: JOSHUA'S
OREGON TRAIL DIARY, WILLAMETTE
VALLEY, OREGON, 1848
Oregon Trail, 1848
J Fiction c2002

Late in 1848, nine-year-old Joshua McCullough starts a second journal, this time recording events in Willamette Valley, Oregon Territory, as his family and others they met on the trail begin to get settled.

Hermes, Patricia. WESTWARD TO HOME: JOSHUA'S
OREGON TRAIL DIARY
St. Joseph, Missouri, 1848
J Fiction c2001

In 1848, 9-year-old Joshua Martin McCullough writes a journal of his family's journey from Missouri to Oregon in a covered wagon. Includes a historical note about westward migration.

Karr, Kathleen. GO WEST, YOUNG WOMEN!
Massachusetts to Oregon, 1846
J Fiction (4-6 gr.) c1996

When a disaster claims the men of their wagon train, spunky 12-year-old Phoebe, her mother, sister, and other women rely on their own resources to complete the journey to Oregon in 1845.

Ketchum, Lisa. ORPHAN JOURNEY HOME
Illinois to Kentucky, 1828
J Fiction c2000

In 1828, while traveling from Illinois to Kentucky, 12-year-old Jesse and her two brothers and sister lose their parents to the milk sickness and must try to finish the dangerous journey by themselves.

Westward Expansion: The Journey

(continued)

Kurtz, Jane. I'M SORRY, ALMIRA ANN

Oregon Trail

J Fiction (3-6 gr.) c1999

8-year-old Sarah's high spirits help make her family's long journey from Missouri to Oregon more bearable, though they do cause both her and her best friend Almira Ann some problems.

Lasky, Kathryn. BEYOND THE DIVIDE

American prairie, 1849

YA Fiction c1983

In 1849, a 14-year-old Amish girl defies convention by leaving her secure home in Pennsylvania to accompany her father across the continent by wagon train.

Murrow, Liza Ketchum. WEST AGAINST THE WIND

American prairie to California, 1850's

J Fiction (6-9 gr.) c1987

14-year-old Abby seeks both her father and the secret of a handsome but mysterious boy during an arduous journey by wagon train from the middle of the country to the Pacific coast in 1850.

Wilson, Diane. BLACK STORM COMIN'

Oregon Trail, Pony Express, 1860

J Fiction c2005

12-year-old Colton, son of a black mother and a 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.

Westward Expansion

Auch, Mary Jane. FROZEN SUMMER

New York, 1816

J Fiction c1998

In 1816, 12-year-old Mem's new home in the wilderness of western New York is disrupted when the birth of another baby sends her mother into "spells" that disconnect her from reality. (Companion to JOURNEY TO NOWHERE)

Auch, Mary Jane. ROAD TO HOME

New York, 1817

J Fiction c2000

In 1817, after her mother has died and her father abandoned his children, 13-year-old Mem searches for a new home for Joshua, herself, and their little sister. (Sequel to FROZEN SUMMER)

Avi. THE BARN

Oregon, 1855

J Fiction (4-8 gr.) c1994

In an effort to fulfill their dying father's last request, 9-year-old Ben and his brother and sister construct a barn on their land in the Oregon Territory.

Blakeslee, Ann R. DIFFERENT KIND OF HERO

Colorado, 1881

J Fiction (5-7 gr.) c1997

In 1881, 12-year-old Renny, who resists his father's efforts to turn him into a rough, tough, brawling boy, earns the disapproval of the entire mining camp when he befriends a newly arrived Chinese boy.

Calvert, Patricia. SNOWBIRD

Dakota Territory, 1883

J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1980

Following the murder of her parents, Willanna faces an uncertain future as she and her younger brother move

from Tennessee in 1883 to the Dakota Territory where she trains her first horse.

Conrad, Pam. PRAIRIE SONGS

Nebraska, late 1800's

J Fiction (5-9 gr.) c1985

Louisa's life in a loving pioneer family on the Nebraska prairie is altered by the arrival of a new doctor and his beautiful, tragically frail wife.

DeFelice, Cynthia. APPRENTICESHIP OF LUCAS

WHITAKER

Connecticut, mid-1800's

J Fiction (5-7 gr.) c1996

After his family dies of consumption in 1849, 12-year-old Lucas becomes a doctor's apprentice.

Fleischman, Sid. JIM UGLY

American West

J Fiction (5-7 gr.) c1992

The adventures of 12-year-old Jake and Jim Ugly, his father's part-mongrel, part-wolf dog, as they travel through the Old West trying to find out what really happened to Jake's actor father.

Hahn, Mary Downing. GENTLEMAN OUTLAW and ME

-ELI : A STORY OF THE OLD WEST

Colorado, 1887

J Fiction (4-7 gr.) c1996

In 1887, 12-year-old Eliza, disguised as a boy and traveling towards Colorado in search of her missing father, falls in with a Gentleman Outlaw and joins him in his illegal schemes.

Holm, Jennifer. BOSTON JANE: AN ADVENTURE

Philadelphia and the Pacific Northwest

YA Fiction c2001

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.

Holm, Jennifer. BOSTON JANE: WILDERNESS DAYS

Philadelphia and the Pacific Northwest

YA Fiction c2002

Far from her native Philadelphia, Miss Jane Peck continues to prove that she's more than an etiquette-schooled graduate of Miss Hepplewhite's Young Ladies Academy as she braves the untamed wilderness of Washington Territory in the mid-1850s.

(Sequel to: BOSTON JANE: AN ADVENTURE)

Holm, Jennifer L. OUR ONLY MAY AMELIA

Washington State, 1899

J Fiction c1999

As the only girl in a Finnish-American family of 7 brothers, May Amelia resents being expected to act like a lady while growing up in Washington state in 1899. Inspired by the diary of the author's Finnish-American grandmother.

Lasky, Kathryn. ALICE ROSE and SAM

Nevada, 1860's

J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1998

Alice Rose, an irrepressible 12-year-old, shares adventures with Mark Twain, an outlandish reporter on her father's newspaper in Virginia City, Nevada, during the 1860s.

MacLachlan, Patricia. CALEB'S STORY

American prairie, 1800's

J Fiction (3-5 gr.) c2001

Westward Expansion

(continued)

The stranger lurking on the Witting family's prairie farm turns out to be their long-lost grandfather, whose presence plus prodding from Sarah forces Jacob to deal with his past.

(Sequel to SKYLARK)

MacLachlan, Patricia. MORE PERFECT THAN THE MOON

American prairie, 1800's

J Fiction (3-5 gr.) c2004

8-year-old Cassie Witting is upset when she finds out that her mother, Sarah, is expecting a baby, but writing in the journal that belonged to her brother Caleb helps her sort out her feelings and understand that Sarah will always love her. (Sequel to CALEB'S STORY)

MacLachlan, Patricia. SARAH, PLAIN AND TALL

American prairie, 1800's

J Fiction (3-5 gr.) c1985

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

(Newbery Award winner)

MacLachlan, Patricia. SKYLARK

American prairie, 1800's

J Fiction (3-5 gr.) c1994

When a drought tests the commitment of a mail-order bride from Maine to her new home on the prairie, her stepchildren hope they will be able to remain a family.

(Sequel to SARAH, PLAIN AND TALL)

Reichart, George. BAG OF LUCKY RICE

California

J Fiction c2002

Rusty, an old prospector, and Lo Fat and Lee, a Chinese father and son living in the small mining town of Rhyolite, Nevada, become friends and share the excitement of finding gold in the Amargosa Desert.

Reiss, Kathryn. RIDDLE OF THE PRAIRIE BRIDE

Kansas, 1878

J Fiction c2001

In 1878, 12-year-old Ida Kate and her widowed father welcome a mail-order bride and her baby to their Kansas homestead, but Ida Kate soon suspects that the bride is not the woman with whom Papa has corresponded.

Sanders, Scott M. WARM AS WOOL

Ohio, 1803-

J Fiction (4-7 gr.) c1992

When Betsy Ward's family moves to Ohio from Connecticut in 1803, she brings along a sockful of coins to buy sheep so that she can gather wool, spin cloth, and make clothes to keep her children warm.

Thomas, Joyce Carol. I HAVE HEARD OF A LAND

Oklahoma Territory, late 1800's

J Fiction (3-6 gr.) c1997

Describes the joys and hardships experienced by an African-American pioneer woman who staked a claim for free land in the Oklahoma territory. Based on the authors own family history.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. CABIN ON TROUBLE CREEK

Ohio, 1803

J Fiction c2004

In 1803 in Ohio, two young brothers are left to finish the log cabin and guard the land while their father goes back to Pennsylvania to fetch their mother and younger siblings.

Yin. COOLIES

Transcontinental Railroad, 1865

J Pic+ c2001

A young boy hears the story of his great-great-great-grandfather and his brother who came to the United States to make a better life for themselves helping to build the transcontinental railroad.