

HISTORICAL FICTION

United States - 1800's

Part II – The Midwest and the American Indian Experience

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

Arrington, Frances. PRAIRIE WHISPERS
South Dakota, 1860's
YA Fiction c2003

Only 12-year-old Colleen knows that her baby sister died just after she was born and that Colleen put another baby in her place, until the baby's father shows up and makes trouble for her and her family on the South Dakota prairie in the 1860s.

Avi. PRAIRIE SCHOOL
Colorado prairie, 1880's
J Fiction c2001

In 1880, Noah's aunt teaches the reluctant nine-year-old how to read as they explore the Colorado prairie together, Noah pushing Aunt Dora in her wheelchair.

Bunting, Eve. CHEYENNE AGAIN
U.S. prairie, late 1880's
J Fiction (3-5 gr.) c1995

In the late 1880's, a Cheyenne boy named Young Bull is taken to a boarding school to learn the white man's ways.

Burks, Brian. WALKS ALONE
New Mexico Territory, 1879
J Fiction c1998

After a surprise attack leaves many of her people dead, 15-year-old Walks Alone, an Apache girl wounded in the massacre, struggles to survive and rejoin the refugee band on their migration to Mexico.

Byars, Betsy. KEEPER OF THE DOVES
Kentucky, 1899
J Fiction c2002

In the late 1800s in Kentucky, Amie McBee and her four sisters both fear and torment the reclusive and seemingly sinister Mr. Tominski, but their father continues to provide for his needs.

Clements, Bruce. I TELL A LIE EVERY SO OFTEN
Missouri, 1848
J Fiction c1974

In 1848, a 14-year-old Missourian, although not a habitual liar, tells two lies that start off an unusual chain of events.

Conrad, Pam. MY DANIEL
New York, Nebraska, 1800's
J Fiction (5-7 gr.) c1989

Ellie and Stevie learn about a family legacy when their grandmother tells them stories of her brother's historical quest for dinosaur bones on their Nebraska farm.

Couloumbis, Audrey. MISADVENTURES OF MAUDE
MARCH, OR, TROUBLE RIDES A FAST
HORSE
Iowa and Missouri, 1869
J Fiction c2005

After the death of the stern aunt who raised them since they were orphaned, 11-year-old Sallie and her 15-year-old sister escape their self-serving guardians and begin an adventure resembling those in the dime novels Sallie loves to read.

Cushman, Karen. RODZINA
Chicago and the midwest, 1881-
J Fiction c2003

A 12-year-old Polish American girl is boarded onto an orphan train in Chicago with fears about traveling to the West and a life of unpaid slavery.

Fleischman, Paul. BORNING ROOM
United States, 1860's+
J Fiction c1991

Lying at the end of her life in the room where she was born in 1851, Georgina remembers what it was like to grow up on the Ohio frontier.

Garland, Sherry. IN THE SHADOW OF THE ALAMO
Texas, 1836
J Fiction c2001

Conscripted into the Mexican Army, 15-year-old Lorenzo Bonifacio makes some unexpected alliances and learns some harsh truths about General Santa Ana as the troops move toward the Battle of the Alamo.

Karr, Kathleen. GREAT TURKEY WALK
Missouri to Denver, 1860
J Fiction (4-8 gr.) c1998

In 1860, a somewhat simple-minded 15-year-old boy attempts to herd 1000 turkeys from Missouri to Denver, Colorado, in hopes of selling them at a profit.

LaFaye, A. WORTH
Nebraska, late 1800's
J Fiction c2004

After breaking his leg, 11-year-old Nate feels useless because he cannot work on the family farm in 19-century Nebraska, so when his father brings home an orphan boy to help with the chores, Nate feels even worse.

Lasky, Kathryn. BONE WARS
Montana, 1874-78
YA Fiction c1988

In the mid-1870s, young teenage scout Thad Longworth, blood brother to the Sioux visionary Black Elk, finds his destiny linked with that of three rival teams of paleontologists searching for dinosaur bones, as the Great Plains Indians prepare to go to war against the white man.

McCaughean, Geraldine. STOP THE TRAIN!
Oklahoma, 1893
J Fiction c2003

Despite the opposition of the owner of the Red Rock Runner railroad in 1893, the new settlers of Florence, Oklahoma, are determined to build a real town.

O'Dell, Scott. ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS
Channel Islands, California
J Fiction (4-7 gr.) c1960

Records the courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for 18 years on an isolated island off the California coast when her tribe emigrated and she was left behind.

O'Dell, Scott. SING DOWN THE MOON
Arizona, New Mexico, 1863-65
J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1970
A young Navaho girl recounts the events of 1864 when her tribe was forced to march to Fort Sumner as prisoners of the white soldiers.

O'Dell, Scott. THUNDER ROLLING IN THE MOUNTAINS
Idaho, Montana, 1877-
J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1992
In the late 19th century, a young Nez Perc e girl relates how her people were driven off their land by the U.S. Army and forced to retreat north until their eventual surrender.

O'Dell, Scott. ZIA
Santa Barbara/Channel Islands, California
J Fiction (4-7gr.) c1976
A young Indian girl, Zia, caught between the traditional world of her mother and the present world of the Mission, is helped by her aunt Karana, whose story was told in the Island of the Blue Dolphins.

Osborne, Mary Pope. ADALINE FALLING STAR
Midwest
J Fiction c2000
Feeling abandoned by her deceased Arapaho mother and her explorer father (Kit Carson), Adaline Falling Star runs away from the prejudiced cousins with whom she is staying and comes close to death in the wilderness, with only a mongrel dog for company.

Pearsall, Shelley. CROOKED RIVER
Ohio, 1812
J Fiction c2005
When 12-year old Rebecca Carter's father brings a Native American accused of murder into their 1812 Ohio settlement town, Rebecca, witnessing the town's reaction to the Indian, struggles with the idea that an innocent man may be convicted and sentenced to death.

Peck, Richard. FAIR WEATHER
Chicago, 1893
J Fiction c2001
In 1893, 13-year-old Rosie and members of her family travel from their Illinois farm to Chicago to visit Aunt Euterpe and attend the World's Columbian Exposition which, along with an encounter with Buffalo Bill and Lillian Russell, turns out to be a life-changing experience for everyone.

Schultz, Jan Neubert. HORSE SENSE: THE STORY OF WILL SASSE, HIS HORSE STAR, AND THE OUTLAW JESSE JAMES
Midwest, 1876-
J Fiction c2001
When his beloved mare is stolen by the James gang after an attempted bank robbery in the nearby town of Northfield, Will joins the posse looking for the outlaws.

Roop, Peter and Connie. AHYOKA and THE TALKING LEAVES
Cherokee Indians, ca 1820-1840's
J Fiction (3-5 gr.) c1992
Ahyoka helps her father Sequoyah in his quest to create a system of writing for his people.

Stewart, Elisabeth Jane. ON THE LONG TRAIL HOME
United States, 1838-9
J Fiction (5-7 gr.) c1994
Meli and her brother Tahlikwa escape from the Cherokee people being herded westward on the Trail of Tears, determined to return to their beloved mountain home.

Von Ahnen, Katherine. HEART OF NAOSAQUA
Missouri and Iowa, 1823
J Fiction (4-6 gr.) c1994
A Young Mesquakie Indian girl along with her people are forced to cross the Mississippi River into Iowa Territory and ultimately settle on the Iowa River.

Whelan, Gloria. NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON
Michigan, 1840's
J Fiction (3-6 gr.) c1993
When she sneaks away to visit her friend, a young girl living on the Michigan frontier is caught up in the forced evacuation of a group of Potawatomi Indians from their tribal lands in the 1840s.