

HISTORICAL FICTION

United States - 1800's

Part IV – Slavery and Underground Railroad, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction Era

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

Slavery & Underground Railroad

Ayers, Katherine. NORTH BY NIGHT: A STORY OF
THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
Ohio, 1851

J Fiction c1998

Presents the journal of a 16-year-old girl whose family operates a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Ayers, Katherine. STEALING SOUTH: A STORY OF
THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Ohio/Kentucky, 1850's

J Fiction c2001

16-year-old Will Spencer leaves home to become a peddler, but gets more than he bargained for when he agrees to go to Kentucky, steal two slaves, and help them reach their brother in Canada.

(Companion volume to NORTH BY NIGHT.)

Chambers, Veronica. AMISTAD RISING: A STORY OF
FREEDOM

Amistad (Schooner), 1839

J Fiction (3-5 gr.) c1998

A fictional account of the 1839 revolt of Africans aboard the slave ship Amistad and the subsequent legal case argued before the Supreme Court in 1841 by former president John Quincy Adams. Based on the true story of Joseph Cinque.

Draper, Sharon. COPPER SUN

Africa, Carolinas, Florida, 1730's

YA Fiction c2006

Two 15-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, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

Forrester, Sandra. DUST FROM OLD BONES

New Orleans, Louisiana, 1838

J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1999

The diary entries of 13-year-old Simone Agneau, a child of mixed African and European ancestry, reflect the peculiar caste system in Louisiana before the Civil War.

Fox, Paula. SLAVE DANCER

Africa and New Orleans, 1840

J Fiction, YA Fiction (5-9 gr.) c1973

Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship, a 13-year-old boy discovers to his horror that he is on a slaver and his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo.

Guccione, Leslie D. COME MORNING

Delaware, 1850's

J Fiction (4-7 gr.) c1985

12-year-old Freedom, the son of a freed slave living in Delaware in the early 1850s, takes over his father's work in the Underground Railroad when his father disappears.

Johnson, Dolores. NOW LET ME FLY

Africa and United States, 1815

J Fiction (4-8 gr.) c1993

A fictionalized account of the life of Minna, kidnapped as a girl in Africa, as she endures the harsh life of a slave on a Southern plantation in the 1800's and tries to help her family survive.

Lester, Julius. DAY OF TEARS

Kentucky, 1800's

J Fiction c2005

Emma has taken care of the Butler children since Sarah and Frances's mother, Fanny, left. Emma wants to raise the girls to have good hearts, as a rift over slavery has ripped the Butler household apart. Now, to pay off debts, Pierce Butler wants to cash in his slave "assets", possibly including Emma.

Lyons, Mary. LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL:

THE STORY OF HARRIET JACOBS

North Carolina to New York, 1825-1897

J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1992

A fictionalized version of the life of Harriet Jacobs, told in the form of letters that she might have written during her slavery in North Carolina and as she prepared for escape to the North in 1842.

Paulsen, Gary. NIGHTJOHN

(sequel is SARNY, A LIFE REMEMBERED)

American South, 1800's

J Fiction/ YA Fiction c1993

12-year-old Sarny's brutal life as a slave becomes even more dangerous when a newly-arrived slave offers to teach her how to read.

Pearsall, Shelly. TROUBLE DON'T LAST

Underground Railroad

J Fiction c2002

Samuel, an 11-year-old Kentucky slave, and Harrison, the elderly slave who helped raise him, attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

Rinaldi, Ann. MINE EYES HAVE SEEN

Harper's Ferry (W. VA), 1859

YA Fiction c1998

In the summer of 1859, 15-year-old Annie travels to the Maryland farm where her father, John Brown, is secretly assembling his provisional army prior to their raid on the United States arsenal at nearby Harpers Ferry.

Rinaldi, Ann. WOLF BY THE EARS

Monticello, 1819-22

J Fiction, YA Fiction (8-12 gr.) c1991

Harriet Hemings, rumored to be the daughter of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings, one of his black slaves, struggles with the problems facing her--to escape from the velvet cage that is Monticello, or to stay, and thus remain a slave.

Slavery & Underground Railroad

(continued)

Robinet, Harriette. TWELVE TRAVELERS, TWENTY HORSES

Missouri to California, 1860
J Fiction c2003

On the way to California with their kind new master, 13-year-old Jacob, his mother, and other slaves are caught up in adventures that include trying to stop a plot to help the South secede from the Union.

Rosen, Michael. SCHOOL FOR POMPEY WALKER

American South, 1835-
J Fiction (4-6 gr.) c1995

At the dedication of a school named for him, an old former slave tells the story of his life and how his white friend helped him earn the money for the school by repeatedly selling him into slavery, after which he always escaped.

Ruby, Lois. STEAL AWAY HOME

Kansas, 1850's/ 1990's
J Fiction (5-7 gr.) c1994

In two parallel stories, a Quaker family in Kansas in the late 1850s operates a station on the Underground Railroad, while almost 150 years later, 12-year-old Dana moves into the same house and finds the skeleton of a black woman who helped the Quakers.

Schwartz, Virginia. IF I JUST HAD TWO WINGS

Alabama to Canada, 1861-2
YA Fiction c2001

13-year old Phoebe uses the Underground Railroad to escape from slavery in the American South.

Wyeth, Sharon. FLYING FREE: COREY'S

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD DIARY
Amherstburg, Canada, 1858
J Fiction c2002

In 1858, 9-year-old Corey Birdsong and his family, fugitive slaves from Kentucky, build a new life in Amherstburg, Canada, while still hoping to help those they left behind.

Wyeth, Sharon. FREEDOM'S WINGS: COREY'S

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD DIARY
Kentucky, 1857
J Fiction c2000

A 9-year-old slave keeps a diary of his journey to freedom along the Underground Railroad in 1857.

Civil War

Ackerman, Karen. TIN HEART

Ohio, Civil war period
J Fiction (3-5 gr.) c1990

As the onset of the Civil War causes a rift between their fathers, Mahaley and Flora find a way to preserve their friendship.

Banks, Sara. ABRAHAM'S BATTLE: A NOVEL OF GETTYSBURG

Pennsylvania
J Fiction c1999

In 1863, as the Civil War approaches his home in Gettysburg and he realizes that a big battle is about to begin, a freed slave named Abraham decides to join the ambulance corps of the Union Army.

Beatty, Patricia. JAYHAWKER

Kansas
J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1991

In the early years of the Civil War, teenage Kansan farm boy Lije Tulley becomes a Jayhawker, an abolitionist

raider freeing slaves from the neighboring state of Missouri, and then goes undercover there as a spy.

Beatty, Patricia. TURN HOMEWARD, HANNALEE

Georgia/Indiana
J Fiction (6-9 gr.) c1984

12-year-old Hannalee Reed, forced to relocate in Indiana along with other Georgia millworkers during the Civil War, leaves her mother with a promise to return home as soon as the war ends.

Brenaman, Miriam. EVVY'S CIVIL WAR

Virginia, 1860
J Fiction c2002

In Virginia in 1860, on the verge of the Civil War, 14-year-old Evvy chafes at the restrictions that her society places on both women and slaves.

Collier, James. WITH EVERY DROP OF BLOOD:

A NOVEL OF THE CIVIL WAR
Virginia
YA Fiction c1994

While trying to transport food to Richmond, Virginia, during the Civil War, 14-year-old Johnny is captured by a black Union soldier.

Denslow, Sharon. ALL THEIR NAMES WERE

COURAGE
J Fiction c2003

In 1862, as William Burd fights in the Civil War, he exchanges letters with his sister, Sallie, who is also writing to Confederate and Union generals asking about their horses in order to write a book.

Hahn, Mary Downing. HEAR THE WIND BLOW: A

NOVEL OF THE CIVIL WAR
Virginia
J Fiction c2003

With their mother dead and their home burned, a 13-year-old boy and his little sister set out across Virginia in search of relatives during the final days of the Civil War.

Hunt, Irene. ACROSS FIVE APRILS

J Fiction c1964

Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War. A Newbery Honor book.

Karr, Kathleen. SPY IN THE SKY

South Carolina
J Fiction (3-4 gr.) c1997

When Northerner Thaddeus Lowe lands his huge balloon in South Carolina at the beginning of the Civil War, 10-year-old orphan Ridley Jones joins up with him, and the two set out to find a way to use Lowe's balloon to help the North. (Thaddeus Lowe began the Balloon Corps for President Lincoln and the Union Army.)

Keehn, Sally. ANNA SUNDAY

Pennsylvania to Virginia, 1863
J Fiction c2002

In 1863, 12-year-old Anna, disguised as a boy and accompanied by her younger brother Jed, leaves their Pennsylvania home and makes the difficult journey to join their wounded father in Winchester, Virginia, where they find themselves in danger from Confederate troops.

Lyons, Mary R. DEAR ELLEN BEE: A CIVIL WAR

SCRAPBOOK OF TWO UNION SPIES
Virginia
J Fiction c2000

Civil War (continued)

A scrapbook kept by a young black girl details her experiences and those of the older white woman, "Miss Bet," who had freed her and her family, sent her north from Richmond to get an education, and then worked to bring an end to slavery. Based on the life of Elizabeth Van Lew.

McMullan, Margaret. HOW I FOUND THE STRONG
Mississippi, Civil War
J Fiction c2004

Frank Russell, known as Shanks, wishes he could have gone with his father and brother to fight for Mississippi and the Confederacy, but his experiences with the war and his changing relationship with the family slave, Buck, change his thinking.

Paulsen, Gary. SOLDIER'S HEART
YA Fiction c1998

Subtitle: "Being the story of the enlistment and due service of the boy Charley Goddard in the First Minnesota Volunteers." Eager to enlist, 15-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

Peck, Richard. RIVER BETWEEN US
Illinois
YA Fiction c2003

During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois.

Pinkney, Andrea. SILENT THUNDER:
Virginia, 1862
J Fiction (5-7 gr.) c1999

In 1862, 11-year-old Summer and her 13-year-old brother Rosco take turns describing how life on the quiet Virginia plantation where they are slaves is affected by the Civil War. Each has a dream both illegal and dangerous: Summer wants to learn to read, and Roscoe wants to join the Union forces.

Rinaldi, Ann. GIRL IN BLUE
Civil War
J Fiction c2001

To escape an abusive father and an arranged marriage, 14-year-old Sarah, dressed as a boy, leaves her Michigan home to enlist in the Union Army, and becomes a soldier on the battlefields of Virginia, as well as a Union spy working in the house of Confederate sympathizer Rose O'Neal Greenhow in Washington, D.C.

Rinaldi, Ann. IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE
American South
J Fiction (8-12 gr.) c1993

For two sisters growing up surrounded by the Civil War, there is conflict both outside and inside their house.

Rinaldi, Ann. LAST SILK DRESS
American South
YA Fiction c1998

During the Civil War, Susan finds a way to help the Confederate Army and uncovers a series of mysterious family secrets.

Wisler, G. Clifton. MR. LINCOLN'S DRUMMER
United States
J Fiction (4-6 gr.) c1995

Recounts the courageous exploits of Willie Johnston, an 11-year-old Civil War drummer, who became the youngest recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor (given by President Lincoln). Based on a true story.

Post-Civil War (Reconstruction Era)

Beatty, Patricia. BE EVER HOPEFUL, HANNALEE
Georgia
J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1988

In 1865 with the war recently over, 14-year-old Hannalee and her recently reunited family decide to start a new life in Atlanta where, because of the need to rebuild the devastated city, jobs are plentiful. (sequel to TURN HOMEWARD, HANALEE.)

Hopkinson, Deborah. BAND OF ANGELS: A STORY
INSPIRED BY THE JUBILEE SINGERS
J Fiction c1999

The daughter of a slave forms a gospel singing group and goes on tour to raise money to save Fisk University.

Paulsen, Gary. SARNY, A LIFE REMEMBERED
American South, post-Civil War - 1930
J Fiction (7-9 gr.) c1997

Continues the adventures of Sarny, the slave girl Nightjohn taught to read, through the aftermath of the Civil War during which time she taught other Blacks and lived a full life until age ninety-four. (sequel to NIGHTJOHN.)

Reeder, Carolyn. SHADES OF GRAY
Virginia, 1860's
J Fiction (4-7 gr.) c1989

At the end of the Civil War, 12-year-old Will, having lost all his immediate family, reluctantly leaves his city home to live in the Virginia countryside with his aunt and the uncle he considers a "traitor" because he refused to take part in the war.

Rinaldi, Ann. COFFIN QUILT: THE FEUD BETWEEN
THE HATFIELDS AND THE MCCOYS
Kentucky/ West Virginia, 1870's and 1880's
YA Fiction c1999

In the 1880's, young Fanny McCoy witnesses the growth of a terrible and violent feud between her Kentucky family and the West Virginia Hatfields, complicated by her older sister Roseanna's romance with a Hatfield.

Taylor, Mildred D. THE LAND
American South
J Fiction c2001

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. (Prequel to ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY.)

Prepared by the Youth Services Staff,
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