

# HISTORICAL FICTION

## United States - 1945-

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

Beard, Darleen. FLIMFLAM MAN  
Oklahoma, 1950  
J Fiction (3-6 gr.) c1998

In the summer of 1950, a con man comes to Wetumka, Oklahoma, telling about his fabulous circus, and although he swindles the townspeople, two young girls grow from the experience. Based on an incident that took place in this small farming town and which inspired the town's annual Sucker Day Festival.

Becquets, Diane Les. STONES OF MOURNING CREEK  
Alabama, 1966  
YA Fiction c2001

In Alabama in the 1960s, 14-year-old Francie develops a controversial and dangerous friendship with a colored girl her own age.

Choi, Sook Nyul. GATHERING OF PEARLS  
Korea and New York (City), 1954  
YA Fiction c1994

Sookan struggles to balance her new life as a college freshman in the United States with expectations from her family at home in Korea.

Christ-Evans, Craig. AMARYLLIS  
Florida, 1967-  
YA Fiction c2003

Jimmy and his older brother Frank share a love of surfing and their problems with a drunken father, until Frank turns 18 and goes to Vietnam.

Clinton, Cathryn. THE CALLING  
South Carolina, 1962  
J Fiction c2001

In 1962 in South Carolina, 12-year-old Esta is called into the ministry of Jesus and anointed with the gift of healing, but when her relatives decide to take her on a religious crusade she wonders if it is the right thing to do.

Cormier, Robert. HEROES  
post- World War II  
YA Fiction c1998

After joining the army at 15 and having his face blown away by a grenade in a battle in France, Francis returns home to Frenchtown hoping to find--and kill--the former childhood hero he feels betrayed him.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. WATSONS GO TO  
BIRMINGHAM- 1963  
Michigan to Birmingham, Alabama, 1963  
J Fiction (4-8 gr.) c1995

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.  
A Newbery Honor book.

Greene, Bette. MORNING IS A LONG TIME COMING  
Arkansas and Europe  
YA Fiction c1978

En route to Germany in search of the maternal love she never had, 18-year-old Patty Bergen lingers in Paris and experiences her first love affair.  
(sequel to SUMMER OF MY GERMAN SOLDIER.)

Grimes, Nikki. JAZMIN'S NOTEBOOK  
New York City, 1960's  
YA Fiction c1998

Jazmin, an Afro-American teenager who lives with her older sister in a small Harlem apartment in the 1960s, finds strength in writing poetry and keeping a record of the events in her sometimes difficult life.

Hest, Amy. GREAT GREEN NOTEBOOK OF KATIE  
ROBERTS, WHO JUST TURNED 12 ON  
MONDAY  
Texas, 1948-  
J Fiction (4-6 gr.) c1998

In a series of journal entries, letters, pictures, and drawings, Katie relates her feelings about her mother, baby brothers, new friends, school, boys, the Italian immigrant she tutors, and growing up.

Hest, Amy. PRIVATE NOTEBOOK OF KATIE  
ROBERTS, AGE 11  
Texas, 1947-  
J Fiction (4-6 gr.) c1995

In a series of journal entries and letters to a pen pal, Katie relates her feelings about her father's death in World War II, her mother's remarriage, and the family's move from New York City to Texas.

Holt, Kimberly. DANCING IN CADILLAC LIGHT  
Texas, 1968  
J Fiction c2001

In 1968, 11-year-old Jaynell's life in the town of Moon, Texas, is enlivened when her eccentric Grandpap comes to live with her family.

Houston, Julian. NEW BOY  
Virginia & Connecticut, 1950's  
YA Fiction c2005

As the first black student in an elite Connecticut boarding school in the late 1950s, Rob Garrett is witness to the persecution of another student with bad acne who is also Jewish, while his friends back home are planning actions against segregation in the South.

Krisher, Trudy. SPITE FENCES  
Georgia, 1960  
YA fiction c1994

As she struggles with her troubled relationship with her mother during the summer of 1960, a young girl is also drawn into the violence, hatred, and racial tension in her small Georgia town.

Levine, Ellen. CATCH A TIGER BY THE TOE  
New York City, 1953  
J Fiction c2005

In the Bronx, New York, during the McCarthy era, 12-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.

McDonald, Joyce. DEVIL ON MY HEELS  
Florida, 1959  
YA Fiction c2004

In 1959, 15-year-old Dove, the daughter of a prosperous orange grower in Benevolence, Florida, feels increasingly uneasy after learning of acts of racism against the African American orange pickers by those close to her.

McGuigan, Mary Ann. WHERE YOU BELONG  
New York, 1963  
YA Fiction c1997

In 1963, when 13-year-old Fiona runs away from home and ends up reunited with her former classmate Yolanda in an all-black neighborhood of the Bronx, their interracial friendship gives rise to both comfort and controversy.

McKissack, Patricia. TIPPY LEMMEY  
Tennessee, 1951  
J Fiction c2003

This is a story about 3 friends who, despite their distrust of a neighborhood dog Tippy, rescue him and other dogs from thieves. The kids learn not to judge by appearances and end up great pals with the pup.

Martin, Ann M. HERE TODAY  
New York, 1963  
J Fiction c2004

In 1963, when her flamboyant mother abandons the family to pursue her dream of becoming an actress, 11-year-old Ellie Dingman takes charge of her younger siblings, while also trying to deal with her outcast status in school and frightening acts of prejudice toward the "misfits" that live on her street.

Mochizuki, Ken. BEACON HILL BOYS  
Seattle, early 1970's  
YA Fiction c2002

In 1972 in Seattle, a teenager in a Japanese American family struggles for his own identity, along with a group of three friends who share his anger and confusion.

Mochizuki, Ken. HEROES  
U.S., 1960's  
J Fiction (3-6 gr.) c1995

Japanese American Donnie, whose playmates insist he be the "bad guy" in their war games, calls on his reluctant father and uncle to help him get away from that role.

Moranville, Sharelle. OVER THE RIVER  
Illinois and Oklahoma, late 1940's  
J Fiction c2002

In 1947, after the war, Willa Mae's father returns to the Illinois town where she has lived with her maternal grandparents for the last 5 of her 11 years, and Willa Mae finds herself struggling to understand old family tensions and secrets.

Moses, Sheila P. LEGEND OF BUDDY BUSH  
North Carolina, 1947  
J Fiction c2004

In 1947, 12-year-old Pattie Mae is sustained by her dreams of escaping Rich Square, North Carolina, and moving to Harlem when her Uncle Buddy is arrested for attempted rape of a white woman and her grandfather is diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor.

Murphy, Rita. BLACK ANGELS  
Georgia, 1961  
J Fiction c2001

The summer of 1961 brings change to 11-year-old Celli and her town of Mystic, Georgia, when her beloved Sophie becomes involved in the Civil Rights Movement and Celli learns a secret about the father who left her and her family long ago.

Shalant, Phyllis. WHEN PIRATES CAME TO BROOKLYN  
New York, 1960  
J Fiction c2002

Lee Bloom is drawn into a high-energy friendship with her new neighbor that is built around their exuberant imaginations, but their mothers' bigotry soon threatens to destroy their friendship.

Tatlock, Ann. I'LL WATCH THE MOON  
Minnesota, post-WWII  
YA Fiction c2003

As a family faces their darkest moments, this elegant novel paints a story of God's healing in the face of suffering.

Taylor, Mildred D. GOLD CADILLAC  
Ohio to Mississippi, 1959  
J Fiction c1987

Two black girls living in the North are proud of their family's beautiful new Cadillac until they take it on a visit to the South and encounter racial prejudice for the first time.

Testa, Maria. ALMOST FOREVER  
Home front, 1967-8  
J Fiction c2003

A young girl describes what she, her brother, and their mother do during the year that her doctor father is serving in the Army in Vietnam.

Uchida, Yoshiko. JOURNEY HOME  
Berkeley, California  
J Fiction (5-8 gr.) c1978

After their release from an American concentration camp, a Japanese-American girl and her family try to reconstruct their lives amidst strong anti-Japanese feelings which breed fear, distrust, & violence.

Sequel to JOURNEY TO TOPAZ

Vance, Susanna. SIGHTS  
1950's  
J Fiction c2001

Despite years of abuse at the hands of her drunken father, Baby Girl has always believed that she was special, partly because of her "gift" of seeing the future, until she and her mother set out to begin a new life on their own.

Veciana-Suarez, Ana. FLIGHT TO FREEDOM  
Cuba to Miami, FL, 1967  
YA Fiction c2002

Writing in the diary which her father gave her, 13-year-old Yara describes life with her family in Havana, Cuba, in 1967, as well as her experiences in Miami, Florida, after immigrating there to be reunited with some relatives while leaving others behind.

White, Ellen Emerson. ROAD HOME  
Vietnam and United States, 1970's  
YA Fiction c1995

Rebecca, a young nurse stationed in Vietnam during the war, must come to grips with her wartime experiences once she returns home to the U.S.

White, Ruth. TADPOLE  
Kentucky, 1955  
J Fiction c2003

In rural Kentucky in 1955, Serilda Collins, single mother of four lively girls, discovers that her orphaned nephew is being subjected to brutality.

Woods, Brenda. RED ROSE BOX  
Louisiana and Los Angeles, 1953  
J Fiction c2002

In 1953, Leah Hopper dreams of leaving the poverty and segregation of her home in Sulphur, Louisiana, and when Aunt Olivia sends train tickets to Los Angeles as part of her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday present, Leah gets a first taste of freedom.