

United States, 1900 - 1938

Chapter Books (J Fiction) -- Grades 3-8

[ABERNATHY BOYS](#)

by Hunt, Laura

A fictionalized account of the adventurous 1909 journey of 9-year-old Bud Abernathy and his 5-year-old brother, Temp, who traveled alone, mostly on horseback, from their home in Oklahoma to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and back again, crossing the vast, desertlike no-man's-land in the Texas Panhandle known as the caprock.

[ALL THE WAY HOME](#)

by Giff, Patricia Reilly

In 1941, circumstances bring together Brick, a boy from New York's apple country, & Mariel, a young girl made shy by her bout with polio, & the two make a journey from Brooklyn back to help Brick's elderly neighbors save their apple crop and to help Mariel learn about her past.

[All-of-a-Kind Family](#)

Series Title: [All-of-a-Kind Family](#)

by Taylor, Sydney

1. [All-of-a-Kind Family](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=All-of-a-Kind+Family+&qtype=title)

2. [All-of-a-Kind Family](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=More+All-of-a-Kind+Family+&qtype=title)

3. [All-of-a-Kind Family Uptown](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=All-of-a-Kind+Family+Uptown&qtype=title)

4. [All-of-a-Kind Family Downtown](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=All-of-a-Kind+Family+Downtown&qtype=title)

5. [Ella of All-of-a-Kind Family](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Ella+of+All-of-a-Kind+Family+&qtype=title)

[ALMOND ORCHARD](#)

by Coats, Laura Jane

A woman remembers helping her family tend their almond orchard through the seasons as she was growing up & contemplates the changes that technology has brought to the process.

[ANASTASIA: The Last Grand Duchess](#)

Series Title: [Royal Diaries](#)

by Meyer, Carolyn

J FICTION MEY

A novel in diary form in which the youngest daughter of Czar Nicholas II describes the privileged life

her family led up until the time of World War I and the tragic events that befell them.

[ANNA'S FIGHT FOR HOPE: THE GREAT DEPRESSION](#)

Series Title: [Sisters in Time](#)

by Grote, JoAnn

During the Great Depression, twelve-year-old Anna and her cousin Fred witness much hunger, poverty and despair, and decide to help those in need.

[BEST BAD THING](#)

by Uchida, Yoshiko

At first dismayed at having to spend the last of her summer vacation helping out in the household of recently widowed Mrs. Hata, Rinko discovers there are pleasant surprises for her, but then bad things start to happen. Sequel to "A Jar of Dreams."

[BETSY-TACY](#)

Series Title: [Betsy-Tacy](#)

by Lovelace, Maud Hart

The adventures of 3 inseparable girls in a Minnesota town in the early 1900's. Starting when the girls are eight, the books chronicle their lives as they grow up and discover the world in and beyond their neighborhood. 1. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Betsy-Tacy+&qtype=title">Betsy-Tacy

2. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Betsy-Tacy+and+Tib&qtype=title">Betsy-

and Tib 3. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Betsy+and+Tacy+Go+Over+the+Big+Hill

and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill 4. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Betsy+and+Tacy+Go+Downtown&qtype=

and Tacy Go Downtown 5. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Heaven++to+Betsy&qtype=title">Heaven

to Betsy 6. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Betsy+and+Joe&qtype=title">Betsy

and Joe

[BREAD AND ROSES, TOO](#)

by Paterson, Katherine

Jake and Rosa, two children, form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

[BUD, NOT BUDDY](#)

by Curtis, Christopher Paul

J FIC CUR

10-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

CARRIE'S COURAGE: BATTLING THE POWERS OF BIGOTRY

Series Title: Sisters in Time

by Lutz, Norma Jean

Carrie tries to protect her Jewish friend from intolerant people.

CAT RUNNING

by Snyder, Zilpha Keatley

When 11-year-old Cat Kinsey builds a secret hideout to escape her unhappy homelife, she slowly gets to know a poor family who have come to California after losing their Texas home to the dust storms of the 1930s.

CHRISTMAS AFTER ALL

Series Title: Dear America

by Lasky, Kathryn

J FICTION LAS

Subtitle: The Diary of Minnie Swift: Indianapolis, Indiana, 1932 In her fictionalized journal, 11-year-old Minnie Swift recounts how her family dealt with the difficult times during the Depression and how the arrival of an orphan from Texas changed their lives in Indianapolis just before Christmas 1932.

COUNTING ON GRACE

by Winthrop, Elizabeth

It's 1910 in Pownal, Vermont. At 12 Grace and her best friend Arthur must go to work in the mill, helping their mothers work the looms. Together Grace and Arthur write a secret letter to the Child Labor Board about underage children working in the mill. A few weeks later, Lewis Hine, a famous reformer arrives undercover to gather evidence. Grace meets him and appears in some of his photographs, changing her life forever.

COYOTE SCHOOL NEWS

by Sandin, Joan

In 1938-1939, 4th-grader Monchi Ramirez and the other students at Coyote School enjoy their new teacher, have a special Christmas celebration, participate in the Tucson Rodeo Parade, and produce their own school newspaper.

DANGEROUS WATERS: AN ADVENTURE ON TITANIC

by Mone, Gregory

J FIC MON

Determined to focus on work rather than books, as his father had, 12-year-old Patrick Waters leaves Belfast as a steward on the Titanic, but the very wealthy Harry Widener arranges to tutor him, drawing Patrick into association with thieves seeking Harry's very rare edition of Francis Bacon's Essays.

DAVE AT NIGHT

by Levine, Gail Carson

When orphaned Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music- and culture-filled world of the Harlem Renaissance.

DAY NO PIGS WOULD DIE

by Peck, Robert Newton

To a 13-year-old Vermont farm boy whose father slaughters pigs for a living, maturity comes early as he learns "doing what's got to be done," especially regarding his pet pig who cannot produce a litter.

DOCTOR LIKE PAPA

by Kinsey-Wamock, Natalie

When the influenza epidemic of 1918 comes to Vermont, 11-year-old Margaret, who has always wanted to be a physician, finds out what doctoring is like.

DOVEY COE

by Dowell, Frances O'Roark

When accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong-willed 12-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others, including her deaf brother.

DRAGON'S CHILD

by Yep, Laurence

In 1922, ten-year-old Gim Lew reluctantly leaves his village in China to accompany his father to America, but before they go he must prepare for a grueling test that he must pass--without stuttering--at California's Angel Island, where strict officials strive to keep out unwanted immigrants. Includes facts about immigration from China and the experiences of the author's family.

DRAGONWINGS

by Yep, Laurence

In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine.

DREAMS IN THE GOLDEN COUNTRY

Series Title: Dear America

by Lasky, Kathryn

J FICTION LAS

Subtitle: The Diary of Zipporah Feldman, a Jewish Immigrant Girl, New York City, 1903 12-year-old Zippy, a Jewish immigrant from Russia, keeps a diary account of the first eighteen months of her family's life on the Lower East Side of New York City in 1903-1904.

DROWNED MAIDEN'S HAIR

by Schlitz, Laura

At the Barbary Asylum for Female Orphans, 11-year-old Maud is adopted by three spinster sisters moonlighting as mediums who take her home and reveal to her the role she will play in their seances.

GAWGON AND THE BOY

by Alexander, Lloyd

In Depression-era Philadelphia, when 11-year-old David is too ill to attend school, he is tutored by the unique & adventurous Aunt Annie, whose teaching combines with his imagination to greatly enrich his life.

[GRAPE THIEF](#)

by Franklin, Kristine

In 1925, in a small Washington State community made up of families from different ethnic backgrounds, twelve-year-old Cuss tries to stay in school as he watches those around him struggle with various financial difficulties.

[HANNAH'S JOURNAL: The Story of an Immigrant Girl](#)

Series Title: [Young American Voices](#)

by Moss, Marissa

J FICTION MOS

In the Russian shtetl where she and her family live in the early 1900's, Hannah is given a diary for her tenth birthday, and in it she records the dramatic story of her journey to America.

[HAPPIEST ENDING](#)

by Uchida, Yoshiko

When twelve-year-old Rinko learns that a neighbor's daughter is coming from Japan to marry a stranger twice her age, she sets out to change this arrangement and gains new insights into love and adult problems.

[HEAR MY SORROW](#)

Series Title: [Dear America](#)

by Hopkinson, Deborah

J FICTION HOP

Subtitle: The Diary of Angela Denoto, a Shirtwaist Worker, New York City, 1909 Forced to drop out of school at the age of 14 to help support her family, Angela, an Italian immigrant, works long hours for low wages in a garment factory, and becomes a participant in the shirtwaist worker strikes of 1909.

[HOME TO MEDICINE MOUNTAIN](#)

by Santiago, Chiori

Two young Maidu Indian brothers sent to live at a government-run Indian residential school in California in the 1930's find a way to escape & return home for the summer. Story is based on the author's father and uncle's experiences.

[HOPE IN MY HEART](#)

Series Title: [SOFIA'S IMMIGRANT DIARY](#)

by Lasky, Kathryn

J FICTION LAS

After her family immigrates to America from Italy in 1903, 10-year-old Sofia is quarantined at the Ellis Island Immigration Station, where she makes a good friend but endures nightmarish conditions.

1. <http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/opac/en-US/skin/default/xml/rresult.xml?rt=title&tp=title&t=HOPE%20IN%20MY%20HEART>

2. <http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/opac/en-US/skin/default/xml/rresult.xml?rt=title&tp=title&t=HOME%20AT%20LA>

3. <http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/opac/en-US/skin/default/xml/rresult.xml?rt=title&tp=title&t=HOME%20AT%20LA>

AT LAST

[HOW IT HAPPENED IN PEACH HILL](#)

by Jocelyn, Marthe

J FICTION JOC

When 15-year-old Annie Grey and her "clairvoyant" mother arrive in Peach Hill, New York, in 1924, each finds a reason for wanting to finally settle down, but to reach their goals they will have to do some serious lying and Annie will have to stand up for herself.

[I AM LAVINA CUMMING](#)

by Lowell, Susan

In the early 1900's, while staying with relatives in California after the death of her mother, 10-year-old Lavina sees the arrival of the automobile & experiences the great San Francisco earthquake.

[JAR OF DREAMS](#)

by Uchida, Yoshiko

A young girl grows up in a closely-knit Japanese American family in California during the 1930's, a time of great prejudice.

[LEO AND THE LESSER LION](#)

by Forrester, Sandra

J FICTION FOR

In Depression-era Alabama, 12-year-old Mary Bayliss Pettigrew struggles to understand why her beloved older brother, Leo, died and whether she, miraculously, survived for some special purpose.

[LET THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN](#)

by Taylor, Mildred D.

Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive.

[LETTERS TO MISSY VIOLET](#)

by Hathaway, Barbara

J FICTION HAT

iN THE 1920'S, while her friend Missy Violet, the town midwife, is away in Florida, 11-year-old Viney concerns herself with ailing neighbors, schoolmates, and her irrepressible cousin Charles, who feels superior because he has been to Harlem in New York City.

[Little House on Rocky Ridge](#)

Series Title: [Little House](#)

by MacBride, Roger

J FICTION MAC

This series takes place in the late 1800's and early 1900's and follows the childhood of Rose, the daughter of Laura Ingalls Wilder, from her early years in Missouri, then to Louisiana, and finally to San Francisco. 1. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Little+House+on+Rocky+Ridge&qtype=tit

House on Rocky Ridge

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Farm in the Ozarks

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=In+the+Land+of+the+Big+Red+Apple&qtype=title>

the Land of the Big Red Apple

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=On+the+Other+Side+of+the+Hill&qtype=title>

the Other Side of the Hill

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Little+Town+in+the+Ozarks&qtype=title>

Town in the Ozarks

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=New+Dawn+on+Rocky+Ridge&qtype=title>

Dawn on Rocky Ridge

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=On+the+Banks+of+the+Bayou&qtype=title>

the Banks of the Bayou

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Bachelor+Girl&qtype=title>

Bachelor Girl

[LIZZIE BRIGHT AND THE BUCKMINSTER BOY](#)

by Schmidt, Gary D.

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

[MAN O' WAR](#)

by Farley, Walter

A fictionalized biography of the American race horse who won twenty of twenty-one races, told by a stable boy who grew up with the great horse.

[MEET KIT](#)

Series Title: [AMERICAN GIRLS](#)

by Tripp, Valerie

In 1934, when her father's business closes because of the Great Depression forcing Kit to make changes in her life, the nine-year-old responds with resourcefulness.

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Meet+Kit+&qtype=title>

Meet Kit

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Kit+Learns+a+Lesson&qtype=title>

Kit Learns a Lesson

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Kit's+Surprise&qtype=title>

Kit's Surprise

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Happy+Birthday%2C+Kit&qtype=title>

Happy Birthday, Kit

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Kit+Saves+the+Day&qtype=title>

Kit Saves the Day

<http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Changes+for+Kit&qtype=title>

Changes for Kit

MEET SAMANTHA

Series Title: AMERICAN GIRLS

by various authors

In 1904, 9-year-old Samantha, an orphan living with her wealthy grandmother, & her servant friend Nellie have a midnight adventure when they try to find out what has happened to the seamstress who suddenly left her job. 1. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Meet+Samantha&qtype=title">Meet Samantha, by Susan Adler 2. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Samantha+Learns+a+Lesson&qtype=title">Learns a Lesson, by Susan Adler 3. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Samantha's+Surprise&qtype=title">Samantha's Surprise, by Maxine Schur 4. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Happy+Birthday%2C+Samantha&qtype=title">Happy Birthday, Samantha, by Valerie Tripp 5. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Samantha+Saves+the+Day&qtype=title">Samantha Saves the Day, by Valerie Tripp 6. <a

href="http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Changes+for+Samantha&qtype=title">Changes for Samantha, by Valerie Tripp

Mighty Miss Malone

by Curtis, Christopher Paul

J FIC CUR

With love and determination befitting the "world's greatest family," 12-year-old Deza Malone, her older brother Jimmie, and their parents endure tough times in Gary, Indiana, and later Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression.

MINSTREL'S MELODY

by Tate, Eleanora E.

In 1904, 12-year-old Orphelia follows her dream by running away from home to join an all-black minstrel show headed for the Saint Louis World's Fair, & learns about her family's troubled past in the process. "American Girl History Mysteries"

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

Series Title: Dear America

by Denenberg, Barry

J FICTION DEN

Subtitle: The Diary of Bess Brennan, The Perkins School for the Blind, 1932 In 1932, a twelve-year-old girl who lost her sight in an accident keeps a diary, recorded by her twin sister, in which she describes life at Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts.

MISSISSIPPI BRIDGE

by Taylor, Mildred D.

During a heavy rainstorm in 1930's rural Mississippi, a 10-year-old white boy sees a bus driver order all the black passengers off a crowded bus to make room for late-arriving white passengers & then set off across the raging Rosa Lee River.

MISSY VIOLET AND ME

by Hathaway, Barbara

J FIC HAT

During the early 1900s, 11-year-old Viney spends her summer working for the local midwife and learns firsthand about birth, death, and "catchin' babies."

MOLLY'S PILGRIM

by Cohen, Barbara

Told to make a doll like a Pilgrim for the Thanksgiving display at school, Molly's Jewish mother dresses the doll as she herself dressed before leaving Russia to seek religious freedom--much to Molly's embarrassment.

RAG COAT

by Mills, Lauren

Minna proudly wears her new coat made of clothing scraps to school, where the other children laugh at her until she tells them the stories behind the scraps.

ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY

by Taylor, Mildred D.

A black family living in the South during the 1930's are faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand.

ROSE'S JOURNAL: The Story of a Girl in the Great Depression

Series Title: Young American Voices

by Moss, Marissa

J FICTION MOS

Rose keeps a journal of her family's difficult times on their farm during the days of the Dust Bowl in 1935.

SECRET SCHOOL

by Avi

In 1925, 14-year-old Ida Bidson secretly takes over as the teacher when the one-room schoolhouse in her remote Colorado area closes unexpectedly.

SILENT BOY

by Lowry, Lois

Katy, the precocious 10-year-old daughter of the town doctor, befriends a retarded boy.

SOUP

Series Title: SOUP

by Peck, Robert Newton

J FICTION PEC

The adventures and misadventures of two boys growing up in a small Vermont town in the 1930's. Soup and Rob are always getting into mischievous trouble that usually ends up involving their entire

community. 1. Soup

2. Soup

and me 3. Soup

for President 4. Soup

on Fire 5. Soup's

Hoop 6. Soup

in Love

[SUMMER OF THE DANCING HORSE](#)

by Clifford, Eth

The summer of 1923, when Bessie is 8 & her brother & friend 12, is a special one of sacrifices, fulfilled desires, & heartbreak too.

[SURVIVAL IN THE STORM](#)

Series Title: [Dear America](#)

by Janke, Katelan

J FICTION JAN

Subtitle: The Dust Bowl Diary of Grace Edwards, Dalhart, Texas, 1935 A 12-year-old girl keeps a journal of her family's and friends' difficult experiences in the Texas panhandle, part of the "Dust Bowl," during the Great Depression.

[TEACHER'S FUNERAL: A COMEDY IN THREE PARTS](#)

by Peck, Richard

In rural Indiana in 1904, 15-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one-room schoolhouse after mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."

[THIMBLE SUMMER](#)

by Enright, Elizabeth

A few hours after Garnet Linden found a silver thimble in the dried-up riverbed, the rains came to end the long drought on her family's Wisconsin farm. Newbery Medal, 1939

[TIME FOR COURAGE](#)

Series Title: [Dear America](#)

by Lasky, Kathryn

J FICTION LAS

Subtitle: The Suffragette Diary of Kathleen Bowen, Washington, D.C., 1917 A diary account of 13-year-old Kathleen Bowen's life in Washington, D.C. in 1917, as she juggles concerns about the national battle for women's suffrage, the war in Europe, and her own school work and family.

TIMOTHY OF THE CAY

by Taylor, Theodore

Having survived being blinded and shipwrecked on a tiny Caribbean island with the old black man Timothy, 12-year-old white Phillip is rescued and hopes to regain his sight with an operation. Alternate chapters follow the life of Timothy from his days as a young cabin boy in the early 1900's.

Prequel/Sequel to THE CAY

TO RACE A DREAM

by Savage, Deborah

In 1906, 15-year-old Theodora disguises herself as a boy to pursue her dream of becoming a race horse driver.

TRUTH ABOUT SPARROWS

by Hale, Marian

12-year-old Sadie promises that she will always be Wilma's best friend when their families leaves drought-stricken Missouri in 1933, but once in Texas, Sadie learns that she must try to make a new home--and new friends, too.

VOYAGE ON THE GREAT TITANIC

Series Title: Dear America

by White, Ellen Emerson

J FICTION WHI

Subtitle: The Diary of Margaret Ann Brady, R.M.S. Titanic, 1912 In her diary in 1912, 13-year-old Margaret Ann describes how she leaves her lonely life in a London orphanage to become a companion to a wealthy American woman, sails on the Titanic, and experiences its sinking.

WELL: DAVID'S STORY

by Taylor, Mildred D.

In Mississippi in the early 1900s ten-year-old David Logan's family generously shares their well water with both white & black neighbors in an atmosphere of potential racial violence. Part of the Logan family saga.

WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES AGAIN

Series Title: Dear America

by Levine, Beth

J FICTION LEV

Subtitle: The World War I Diary of Simone Spencer, New York City to the Western Front, 1917. Teenage Simone's diaries for 1917 and 1918 reveal her experiences as a carefree member of New York society, then as a "Hello girl," a volunteer switchboard operator for the Army Signal Corps in France.

WHEN THE CIRCUS CAME TO TOWN

by Yep, Laurence

An Asian cook & a Chinese New Year celebration help a 10-year-old girl at a Montana stage coach

station to regain her confidence after smallpox scars her face.

[WHITE STAR: A DOG ON THE TITANIC](#)

by Crisp, Marty

12-year-old Sam, a passenger on the Titanic's maiden sea voyage, volunteers to help care for the dogs in the ocean liner's kennel and becomes fast friends with the Irish setter of J. Bruce Ismay, the ship's owner.

[WONDER OF CHARLIE ANNE](#)

by Fusco, Kimberly Newton

J FICTION FUS

In a 1930's Massachusetts farm town torn by the Depression, racial tension, and other hardships, Charlie Anne and her black next-door neighbor Phoebe form a friendship that begins to transform their community.

Books for Teens (YA Fiction)

[BLACK DUCK](#)

by Lisle, Janet Taylor

Years afterwards, Ruben Hart tells the story of how, in 1929 Newport, Rhode Island, his family and his best friend's family were up in the violent competition among groups trying to control local rum-smuggling trade.

[BROOKLYN BRIDGE](#)

by Hesse, Karen

YOUNG ADULT FICTION HES

In 1903 Brooklyn, 14-year-old Joseph Michtom's life changes for the worse when his parents, Russian immigrants, invent the teddy bear and turn their apartment into a factory, while nearby the glitter of Coney Island contrasts with the dismal lives of children dwelling under the Brooklyn Bridge.

[ESPERANZA RISING](#)

by Ryan, Pamela Munoz

Esperanza & her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth & privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression. Based on the experiences of the author's grandmother. Also in Spanish: ESPERANZA RENACE

[HATTIE BIG SKY](#)

by Larson, Kirby

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, 16-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1918 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe. Newbery Honor Book

[OUT OF THE DUST](#)

by Hesse, Karen

A novel in a series of poems, 15-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dustbowl years of the Depression. Newbery Award Winner, 1998.

SEA SO FAR

by Thesman , Jean

YA FICTION THE

After surviving the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fires, two teenage girls, a wealthy semi-invalid and her hired companion, travel together to Ireland and discover they share much in common, from a love of romance novels to grief over the loss of their mothers.