

## United States, 1945-

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

#### [BOYS OF SAN JOAQUIN](#)

by Smith, D. J.

##### **J FICTION SMI**

*In Orange Grove City, California in 1951, 12-year-old Paolo and his deaf cousin Billy get caught up in a search for money missing from the church collection, leading them to complicated discoveries about themselves, other family members, and townspeople they thought they knew.*

#### [CATCH A TIGER BY THE TOE](#)

by Levine, Ellen

*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.*

#### [FIRE IN THE STREETS](#)

by Magoon, Kekla

##### **J FICTION MAG**

*In the aftermath of Dr. King's assassination in 1968, Chicago 14-year-old Maxie longs to join the Black Panthers, whether or not her brother Raheem, ex-boyfriend Sam, or her friends like it, and is soon caught up in the violence of anti-war and civil rights demonstrations.*

#### [FRIENDSHIP FOR TODAY](#)

by McKissack, Patricia C.

##### **J FICTION MCK**

*In 1954, when desegregation comes to Kirkland, Missouri, 10-year-old Rosemary faces many changes and challenges at school and at home as her parents separate.<br><br>*

#### [HERE TODAY](#)

by Martin, Ann M

*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.*

#### [HEROES.](#)

by Mochizuki, Ken

*In the 1960's, 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.*

#### [IT WAS SEPTEMBER WHEN WE RAN AWAY THE FIRST TIME](#)

by Smith, D. J.

## **J FICTION SMI**

*In Orange Grove, California, in 1951, plans for an upcoming carnival and running away part-time fall by the wayside when 12-year-old Paolo, his 6-year-old brother Georgie, and their 10-year-old deaf cousin Billy become victims of prejudice after Billy befriends a Chinese American girl. Sequel to PROBABLY THE WORLD'S BEST STORY...*

## JOURNAL OF BIDDY OWENS

**Series Title:** [My Name is America](#)

by Myers, Walter Dean

## **J FICTION MYE**

*Subtitle: The Negro Leagues, Birmingham, Alabama, 1948 Teenager Biddy Owens' 1948 journal about working for the Birmingham Black Barons includes the games and the players, racism the team faces from New Orleans to Chicago, and his family's resistance to his becoming a professional baseball player. Includes a historical note about the evolution of the Negro Leagues.*

## JOURNEY HOME

by Uchida, Yoshiko

*At the end of World War II, after their release from an American concentration camp, a Japanese-American girl and her family try to reconstruct their lives in Berkeley, California, amidst strong anti-Japanese feelings which breed fear, distrust, & violence. Sequel to JOURNEY TO TOPAZ*

## LIBERATION OF GABRIEL KING

by Going, K.L.

*In Georgia during the summer of 1976, Gabriel, a white boy who is being bullied, and Frita, an African American girl who is facing prejudice, decide to overcome their many fears together as they enter 5th grade.*

## LITTLE AUDREY

by White, Ruth

*In 1948, 11-year-old Audrey lives with her father, mother, and 3 younger sisters in Jewell Valley, a coal mining camp in Southwest Virginia, where her mother still mourns the death of a baby, father goes on drinking binges on payday, and Audrey tries to recover from the scarlet fever that has left her skinny and needing to wear glasses.*

## LOUD SILENCE OF FRANCINE GREEN

by Cushman, Karen

*In 1949, 13-year-old Francine goes to Catholic school in Los Angeles where she becomes best friends with a girl who questions authority and is frequently punished by the nuns, causing Francine to question her own values.*

## One-handed Catch

by Auch, Mary Jane

## **J Fiction**

*After losing his hand in an accident in his father's butcher shop in 1946, 6th-grader Norman uses hard work and humor to learn to live with his disability and to succeed at baseball, art, and other activities.*

### PENNY FROM HEAVEN

by Holm, Jennifer

*As she turns 12 during the summer of 1953, Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also learning a secret about her father's death. Newbery Honor Book*

### PROBABLY THE WORLD'S BEST STORY ABOUT A DOG AND THE GIRL WHO LOVED ME

by Smith, D. J.

#### **J FICTION SMI**

*The further adventures and misadventures of 12-year-old Paolo, his 6-year-old brother Georgie, and their 9-year-old deaf cousin Billy as they try to find their missing dog, cope with a new paper route, and discover romance in their small California town in 1951. Sequel to BOYS OF SAN JOAQUIN*

### SEASON OF GIFTS

by Peck, Robert Newton

#### **J FICTION PEC**

*Relates the surprising gifts bestowed on 12-year-old Bob Barnhart and his family, who have recently moved to a small Illinois town in 1958, by their larger-than-life neighbor, Mrs. Dowdel. A companion novel to: A LONG WAY FROM CHICAGO and A YEAR DOWN YONDER*

### SPELLDOWN

by Luddy, Karen

*In 1969, the town of Red Clover, South Carolina, led by an enthusiastic new Latin teacher, supports 13-year-old Karlene as she wins her school spelling bee and strives to qualify for the National Bee, despite family problems and a growing desire for romance.*

### TADPOLE

by White, Ruth

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

### The Wednesday Wars

by Schmidt, Gary D.

*During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, 7th-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.*

### TIPPY LEMMEY

by McKissack, Patricia C.

*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.*

### WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM--1963

by Curtis, Christopher Paul

*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.*

### WAY DOWN DEEP

by White, Ruth

*In the West Virginia town of Way Down Deep in the 1950's, a foundling called Ruby June is happily living with Miss Arbutus at the boarding house when suddenly, after the arrival of a family of outsiders, the mystery of Ruby's past begins to unravel.*

### WHEN THE SERGEANT CAME MARCHING HOME

by Lemna, Don

*In 1946 when his father returns from the war, a ten year old boy and his family move from the Montana town where they had been living to an old, run-down farm in the middle of nowhere, where they work hard trying to make ends meet.*

### WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

**Series Title:** Dear America

by White, Ellen Emerson

#### **J FICTION WHI**

*Subtitle: The Diary of Molly Mackenzie Flaherty In 1968 Boston, Massachusetts, after her brother Patrick goes to fight in Vietnam, 15-year-old Molly records in her diary how she misses her brother, volunteers at a Veterans' Administration Hospital, and tries to make sense of the war in Vietnam and the tumultuous events in the United States. Includes historical notes.*

### WHITE SANDS, RED MENACE

by Klages, Ellen

*It's 1946, and Dewey Kerrigan is now living near the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico with the Gordon family. Dewey and her "sister," Suze, share secrets, art, and science as they adjust to high school in an isolated desert town. Then, Dewey's long-lost mother, Gallucci, reappears in their lives.*

## **Books for Teens (YA Fiction)**

### BELLE PRATER'S BOY

by White, Ruth

#### **YA FICTION WHI**

*When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives.*

### 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.*

### EDENVILLE OWLS

by Parker, Robert B

*14-year-old Bobby, living in a small Massachusetts town just after World War II, finds himself facing many new challenges as he tries to pull together his coachless basketball team, cope with new feelings for his old friend Joanie, and discover the identity of the mysterious stranger who seems to be threatening his teacher.*

### NEW BOY

by Houston, Julian

#### **YA Fiction HOU**

*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.*

### WHAT I SAW AND HOW I LIED

by Blundell, Judy

#### **YA FICTION BLU**

*In 1947, with her jovial stepfather Joe back from the war and family life returning to normal, teenage Evie, smitten by the handsome young ex-GI who seems to have a secret hold on Joe, finds herself caught in a complicated web of lies whose devastating outcome change her life and that of her family forever.*