

United States, 1800's

California & Western Expansion

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

[ACROSS THE WIDE AND LONESOME PRAIRIE](#)

Series Title: [Dear America](#)

by Gregory, Kristiana

J FICTION GRE

Subtitle: The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell, Oregon Trail, 1847 In her diary, 13-year-old Hattie chronicles her family's arduous 1847 journey from Missouri to Oregon on the Oregon Trail.

[ALL THE STARS IN THE SKY](#)

Series Title: [Dear America](#)

by McDonald, Megan

J FICTION BAR

Subtitle: The Santa Fe Trail Diary of Florrie Mack Ryder, The Santa Fe Trail, 1848 A girl's diary records the year 1848 during which she, her brother, mother, and stepfather traveled the Santa Fe trail from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe.

[ARAMINTA'S PAINT BOX](#)

by Karen, Ackerman

When her family moves from Boston to California in 1847, Araminta and her paint box become separated, but through a series of new owners, the paint box finds its way to California.

[BALLAD OF LUCY WHIPPLE](#)

by Cushman, Karen

In 1849, 12-year-old California Morning Whipple, who renames herself Lucy, is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a rough California mining town.

[BANDIT'S MOON](#)

by Fleischman, Sid

12-year-old Annyrose relates her adventures with Joaquin Murieta and his band of outlaws in the California gold-mining region during the mid-1800s.

[BARN](#)

by Avi

In an effort to fulfill their dying father's last request, 9-year-old Ben and his brother and sister construct a barn on their land in the Oregon Territory in 1855.

[BLACK STORM COMIN'](#)

by Wilson, Diane

12-year-old Colton, son of a black mother and a white father, takes a job with the Pony Express in 1860 after his father abandons the family on their California-bound wagon train, and risks his life to deliver an important letter that may affect the growing conflict between the North and South.

BY THE GREAT HORN SPOON!

by Fleischman, Sid

The story of a young boy who lives with his proper Bostonian aunts and their very correct butler. When their money runs perilously low, the boy and the butler stow away on a ship bound for the gold fields of California in 1849 and have many adventures.

CABALLO LLAMADO LIBERTAD

by Ryan, Pamela Munoz

A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance. Also available in English as RIDING FREEDOM.

Case of the Deadly Desperados

by Lawrence, Caroline

J FIC LAW

In 1862 Nevada Territory, after finding his foster parents murdered and scalped, 12-year-old Pinky Pinkerton, son of a railroad detective and a Sioux Indian, inherits a valuable deed and must hide from dangerous Whittlin Walt and his gang of desperados.

DESPERADO WHO STOLE BASEBALL

by Ritter, John

J FICTION RIT

In 1881, the scrappy, rough-and-tumble baseball team in a California mining town enlists the help of a quick-witted 12-year-old orphan and the notorious outlaw Billy the Kid to win a big game against the National League Champion Chicago White Stockings. Prequel to BOY WHO SAVED BASEBALL

DRAGON'S GATE

by Yep, Laurence

When he accidentally kills a Manchu, a 15-year-old Chinese boy is sent to America to join his father, an uncle, and other Chinese working to build a tunnel for the transcontinental railroad through the Sierra Nevada mountains in 1867.

GREAT RAILROAD RACE

Series Title: Dear America

by Gregory, Kristiana

J FICTION GRE

Subtitle: The Diary of Libby West, Denver, 1868 As the daughter of a newspaper reporter, 14-year-old Libby keeps a diary account of the exciting events surrounding her during the building of the railroad in the West in 1868.

[I'M SORRY, ALMIRA ANN](#)

by Kurtz, Jane

8-year-old Sarah's high spirits help make her family's long journey from Missouri to Oregon more bearable, though they do cause both her and her best friend Almira Ann some problems.

[ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS](#)

by O'Dell, Scott

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.

[JOURNAL OF AUGUSTUS PELLETIER](#)

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

by Lasky, Kathryn

J FICTION LAS

Subtitle: The Lewis and Clark Expedition, Western America, 1804 A fictional journal kept by 12-year-old Augustus Pelletier, the youngest member of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery.

[JOURNAL OF DOUGLAS ALLEN DEEDS](#)

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

by Philbrick, W.R.

J FICTION PHI

Journal of Douglas Allen Deeds: The Donner Party Expedition, 1846 Douglas Deeds, a 15-year-old orphan, keeps a journal of his travels by wagon train as a member of the ill-fated Donner Party, which became stranded in the Sierra Nevada mountains in the winter of 1846-47.

[JOURNAL OF JEDEDIAH BARSTOW](#)

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

by Levine, Ellen

J FICTION LEV

Subtitle: An Emigrant on the Oregon Trail: Overland, 1845 In his 1845 diary, 13-year-old orphan Jedediah describes his wagon train journey to Oregon, in which he confronts rivers and sandy plains, bears and rattlesnakes, and the challenges of living with his fellow travelers.

[JOURNAL OF WONG MING-CHUNG](#)

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

by Yep, Laurence

J FICTION YEP

Subtitle: A Chinese Miner, California, 1852 A young Chinese boy nicknamed Runt records his experiences in a journal as he travels from southern China to California in 1852 to join his uncle during the Gold Rush.

[KATIE AND THE MUSTANG](#)

Series Title: [Hoofbeats](#)

by Duey, Kathleen

Orphaned at age six and taken in by a heartless couple, nine-year-old Katie Rose spends her days doing chores and dreaming of going west to find her Uncle Jack. Then Mr. Stevens brings home an

unbroken Mustang, and Katie's world changes. 4 books in the series.

[LETTERS FROM THE CORRUGATED CASTLE: A NOVEL OF GOLD RUSH CALIFORNIA](#)

by Bloss, Joan W.

A series of letters and newspaper articles reveals life in California in the 1850's, especially for 13-year-old Eldora, who was raised in Massachusetts as an orphan only to meet her influential mother in San Francisco, and Luke, who hopes to find a fortune in gold. Companion novel to GATHERING OF DAYS.

[MEET JOSEFINA](#)

Series Title: [American Girls](#)

by Tripp, Valerie

Nine-year-old Josefina, the youngest of four sisters living in New Mexico in 1824, tries to help run the household after her mother dies.

1. [Meet Josefina](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Meet+Josefina&qtype=title)

2. [Learns a Lesson](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Josefina+Learns+a+Lesson&qtype=title)

3. [Josefina's Surprise](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Josefina's+Surprise&qtype=title)

4. [Happy Birthday, Josefina](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Happy+Birthday%2C+Josefina&qtype=title)

5. [Josefina Saves the Day](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Josefina+Saves+the+Day&qtype=title)

6. [Changes for Josefina](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Changes+for+Josefina&qtype=title)

[ONE-EYED CHARLEY: THE CALIFORNIA WHIP](#)

by Reinstedt, Randall A.

A guest speaker tells the students in the one-roomed Manchester School about the rough mining days in California's past, and in particular, about the career of a stagecoach driver known as Charley Parkhurst.

[OUR ONLY MAY AMELIA](#)

by Holm, Jennifer

As the only girl in a Finnish-American family of 7 brothers, May Amelia resents being expected to act like a lady while growing up in Washington state in 1899. Inspired by the diary of the author's Finnish-American grandmother.

[RACHEL'S JOURNAL: The Story of a Pioneer Girl](#)

Series Title: [Young American Voices](#)

by Moss, Marissa

J FICTION MOS

In her journal, Rachel chronicles her family's adventures traveling by covered wagon on the Oregon

Trail in 1850.

RIDING FREEDOM

by Ryan, Pamela Munoz

A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance. Also available in Spanish as CABALLO LLAMADO LIBERTAD.

RIDING THE FLUME

by Pfitsch, Patricia

In 1894, 15-year-old Francie determines to fight the lumbermen and protect the largest Sequoia tree ever seen, which had been given to her sister just before her death six years earlier.

SEEDS OF HOPE

Series Title: Dear America

by Gregory, Kristiana

J FICTION GRE

Subtitle: The Gold Rush Diary of Susanna Fairchild, California Territory, 1849 A diary account of 14-year-old Susanna Fairchild's life in 1849, when her father succumbs to gold fever on the way to establish his medical practice in Oregon after losing his wife and money on their steamship journey from New York.

STOWAWAY: A TALE OF CALIFORNIA PIRATES

by Gregory, Kristiana

In 1818, Carlito, an 11-year-old boy in the Spanish-owned town of Monterey, California, sees his quiet life threatened when the Argentinian privateer Hippolyte de Bouchard attacks with his pirate ships.

TREASURE IN THE STREAM: THE STORY OF A GOLD RUSH GIRL

by Hoobler, Dorothy

The lives of 10-year-old Amy and the members of her farming family are changed forever when gold is discovered on Mr. Sutter's land in California, 1848.

VALLEY OF THE MOON

Series Title: Dear America

by Garland, Sherry

J FICTION GAR

Subtitle: The Diary of Maria Rosalia de Milagros, Sonoma Valley, Alta California, 1846 The 1845-1846 diary of 13-year-old Maria, servant to the wealthy Spanish family which took her in when her Indian mother died. Includes a historical note about the settlement and early history of California.

WEST TO A LAND OF PLENTY

Series Title: Dear America

by Murphy, Jim

J FICTION MUR

Subtitle: The Diary of Teresa Angelino Viscardi, New York to Idaho Territory, 1883 While traveling in

1883 with her Italian American family (including a meddling little sister) and other immigrant pioneers to a utopian community in Idaho, 14-year-old Teresa keeps a diary of her experiences along the way.

WILD YEAR

Series Title: [Joshua's Oregon Trail Diary](#)

by Hermes, Patricia

J FICTION HER

In this book, Joshua's diary comes to an end with stories of life in Oregon, his sister lost in the woods, and Joshua starting school.

ZIA

by O'Dell, Scott

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.

Books for Teens (YA Fiction)

No books have been entered for this sublist!