

United States, 1800's

Slavery, Underground Railroad, Civil War, & Reconstruction

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

[ACROSS FIVE APRILS](#)

by Hunt, Irene

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.

[DAY OF TEARS](#)

by Lester, Julius

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.

[FLYING FREE](#)

Series Title: [Corey's Diary](#)

by Wyeth, Sharon

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. Sequel to FREEDOM'S WINGS.

[FREEDOM'S WINGS](#)

by Wyeth, Sharon

A 9-year-old slave keeps a diary of his journey to freedom along the Underground Railroad from Kentucky to Ohio to find a new home in 1857. Sequel is FLYING FREE.

[GIRL IN BLUE](#)

by Rinaldi, Ann

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.

[HEAR THE WIND BLOW](#)

by Hahn, Mary Downing

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.

[I THOUGHT MY SOUL WOULD RISE AND FLY](#)

Series Title: [Dear America](#)

by Hansen, Joyce

J FICTION HAN

Subtitle: The Diary of Patsy, a Freed Girl, South Carolina, 1865 12-year-old Patsy keeps a diary of the ripe but confusing time following the end of the Civil War and the granting of freedom to former slaves.

[JOURNAL OF JAMES EDMOND PEASE](#)

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

by Murphy, Jim

J FICTION MUR

Subtitle: A Civil War Union Soldier, Virginia, 1863 James Edmond, a 16-year-old orphan, keeps a journal of his experiences and those of "G" Company which he joined as a volunteer in the Union Army during the Civil War.

[LAND](#)

by Taylor, Mildred D.

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.

[LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL: THE STORY OF HARRIET JACOBS](#)

by Lyons, Mary

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.

[LIGHT IN THE STORM](#)

Series Title: [Dear America](#)

by Hesse, Karen

J FICTION HES

Subtitle: The Civil War Diary of Amelia Martin, Fenwick Island, Delaware, 1861 In 1860 and 1861, while working in her father's lighthouse on an island off the coast of Delaware, 15-year-old Amelia records in her diary how the Civil War is beginning to devastate her divided state.

[MEET ADDY](#)

Series Title: [AMERICAN GIRLS](#)

by Porter, Connie Rose

9-year-old Addy Walker escapes from a cruel life of slavery to freedom during the Civil War. 1. [Meet Addy](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=meet+addy&qtype=title) 2. [Addy Learns a Lesson](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Addy+Learns+a+Lesson&qtype=title) 3. [Addy's Surprise](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Addy's+Surprise&qtype=title) 4. [Happy Birthday Addy](http://catalog.santacruzpl.org/eg/opac/results?fi%3Aformat=&query=Happy+Birthday%2C+Addy&qtype=title)

Birthday, Addy 5. <a

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

Saves the Day 6. <a

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

for Addy

[Nightjohn](#)

by Paulsen, Gary

J Fiction

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. Sequel is SARNY, A LIFE REMEMBERED

[NOW LET ME FLY: THE STORY OF A SLAVE FAMILY](#)

by Johnson, Dolores

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.

[PICTURE OF FREEDOM](#)

Series Title: [Dear America](#)

by McKissack, Patricia C.

J FICTION MCK

Subtitle: The Diary of Clotee, a Slave Girl, Belmont Plantation, Virginia, 1859 In 1859, 12-year-old Clotee, a house slave who must conceal the fact that she can read and write, records in her diary her experiences and her struggle to decide whether to escape to freedom.

[SARNY, A LIFE REMEMBERED](#)

by Paulsen, Gary

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.

[SLAVE DANCER](#)

by Fox, Paula

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. Newbery Medal, 1974

[SPY IN THE SKY](#)

by Karr, Kathleen

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.)

[SUGAR](#)

by Rhodes, Jewell Parker

J FICTION RHO

In 1870, Reconstruction brings big changes to the Louisiana sugar plantation where spunky 10-year-old Sugar has always lived, including her friendship with Billy, the son of her former master, and the arrival of workmen from China.

[The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg](#)

by Philbrick, Rodman

12-year-old Homer, a poor but clever orphan, has extraordinary adventures after running away from his evil uncle to rescue his brother, who has been sold into service in the Civil War.

[TIN HEART](#)

by Ackerman, Karen

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

[WHEN WILL THIS CRUEL WAR BE OVER?](#)

Series Title: [Dear America](#)

by Denenberg, Barry

J FICTION DEN

Subtitle: The Civil War Diary of Emma Simpson, Gordonsville, Virginia, 1864 The diary of a fictional 14-year-old girl living in Virginia, in which she describes the hardships endured by her family and friends during one year of the Civil War.

[Will at the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863](#)

Series Title: [Boys of Wartime](#)

by Calkhoven, Laurie

J FIC CAL

In 1863, 12-year-old Will, who longs to be a drummer in the Union army, is stuck in his sleepy hometown of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, but when the Union and Confederate armies meet right there in his town, he and his family are caught up in the fight. Includes historical notes, glossary, and a timeline of events.

[WOLF BY THE EARS](#)

by Rinaldi, Ann

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.

Books for Teens (YA Fiction)

[COPPER SUN](#)

by Draper, Sharon

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.

[River Between Us](#)

by Peck, Richard

YA Fiction

*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.

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[Soldier's Heart](#)

by Paulsen, Gary

YA Fiction

*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.

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[WITH EVERY DROP OF BLOOD](#)

by Collier, James

While trying to transport food to Richmond, Virginia, during the Civil War, 14-year-old Johnny, a white rebel soldier, is captured by a black Union soldier named Cush, who is also a runaway slave.