

GEOGRAPHY LITERATURE



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Notes on Geography Literature List

Our family intends to use this list, along with free resources online such as maps, to study world geography. It is not intended to be an exhaustive study, nor will it help anyone win a geography bee. I hope it will give my children an idea of where in the world these countries are, and help them to learn something about the cultures and/or history, depending on the books available. We will also add a geography overview book and probably a book on world cultures. We will likely use the list alongside Charlotte Mason's first two *Geographical Readers*, a free download in my Lulu store, or V. M. Hillyer's *A Child's Geography of the World*.

Because our reading is already heavily slanted toward American culture and history, the only books included for the United States are the Newbery Award winners. We learn the states and capitals through my program, *50 States and Where to Find Them*, which also has a literature component.

Videos and picture books are labeled as such.

NW: Newbery Winner with the year of the award.

HH: Public domain books from Heritage-History.com. I've included the Heritage History book descriptions and reading levels: ER (Elementary Readers), MS (Middle School), YA (Young Adult).

YA: High School, books which are either adult level non-fiction or primary sources. I do not believe that I included any High School level historical fiction.

Within each category, I have tried to arrange the books with the Heritage History public domain (free) books first. After that are videos, picture books, family read-alouds, and young adult books.

To add an art component to the study, artists can be searched by nationality on the website www.wikipaintings.org. Just keep in mind that even famous, well-respected artists often painted scenes that are not appropriate for children.

I will probably update the list from time to time as we read some of these books and/or find others. The date of the last update is on even numbered pages. We have not read all of these books, and we're not likely to read them all. Some of these books may be twaddle, or even wildly inappropriate. Use your own judgment.

If you find family friendly read-alouds for any of the regions which are poorly represented in these pages, please email me the titles so that I can add them to the list:
kathy AT barefootmeandering DOT com

REFERENCE / CROSS CULTURAL

Geography of the World by DK Publishing

Global diversity comes alive in DK's essential guide to our ever-changing world, full of fact-packed spreads and full-color photographs.

A Child's Introduction to the World: Geography, Cultures, and People - From the Grand Canyon to the Great Wall of China by Heather Alexander

Readers ages 9 to 12 will travel around the globe, from Greenland to Tasmania, learning the locations and characteristics of continents, countries, and states and provinces in this lively introduction to our world. Starting with the basics—hemispheres, latitude and longitude, continental drift, map notation, landforms, population density, and more—the book gives kids a solid foundation to begin exploring world geography.



Around the World in 80 Tales by Saviour Pirotta

This richly illustrated book takes readers on a journey across six continents, with entertaining folktales from eighty different storytelling traditions. An excellent introduction to foreign countries, these beautifully told stories are perfect for reading aloud and encouraging children to learn about different cultures and other parts of the world. From a dragon princess in China to a clever peddler in Morocco, children will meet wonderful characters as they travel story-by-story around the globe.

VIDEO: National Geographic: Amazing Planet

Netflix. This three-part journey from National Geographic travels into the distant past to watch our planet take shape through the actions of lava, magma and time; explores Earth's magnificent seas; and reveals the awesome power of wind, water and ice.

VIDEO: Nova: Deadliest Volcanoes

Netflix. Follow along as scientists probe the world's most powerful volcanoes -- including the colossal supervolcano that slumbers beneath Yellowstone National Park -- searching for clues to their potential destructive power and when they might erupt again.

VIDEO: Turtle: The Incredible Journey

Netflix. Attempting a perilous odyssey its ancestors have undertaken for millions of years, one loggerhead turtle swims from a beach in Florida across the Atlantic Ocean, encountering stunning sea creatures as well as serious hazards created by modern man.

Japan

HH, ER: Japanese Twins by Lucy F. Perkins

Join Taro and Take, 5 year-old Japanese twins, as they greet a new baby brother, play in their garden, and thrill to the sights they see when they ride in rickshaws to the temple to have their new brother blessed. A rainy day finds them painting pictures with colored sands and harnessing beetles with thread, then preparing for their first day of school. The story concludes with the celebration of their birthday on different days! For Take and all the other girls in Japan celebrate their birthday on one day with a Feast of Dolls, and Taro and all the boys celebrate on another day with a Feast of Flags.

HH, MS: A Boy of Old Japan by R. Van Bergen

This book is a true history of the Japanese Genro, or “Statesmen of Revolutionary Times,” written by an American who lived and work with the characters involved. The heroes include several clan leaders who put aside their own rivalries to overthrow the Tokugawa government, restore the emperors, and expel the hated foreigners. They succeeded in overthrowing the Shogunate, but soon realized that they could not beat the western powers, and instead committed to modernizing Japan.

HH, MS: The Story of Japan by R. Van Bergen

This book gives an exceptionally good history of Japan from its legendary beginnings as the Kingdom of the Sun-Goddess to its fantastic transition from a feudal society to a modern technological one near the end of the nineteenth century. The author provides many stories which illustrate the unique culture of Japan and its dedication to the Samurai virtues of courage, loyalty, honor and duty.

HH, MS: Peeps at History - Japan by John Finnemore

This succinct and nicely illustrated history of Japan covers the four main historical periods of Japan up until the First World War. These include the legendary period (660 B.C. to 645 A.D.), the Fujiwara and Taira Dynasties (645 to 1186), the Shogunate (1186 to 1868), and the modern period (from the opening of Japan in 1868). It is a short but excellent introduction to a fascinating culture.

The Cat Who Went to Heaven by Elizabeth Coatsworth

In ancient Japan, a struggling artist is angered when his housekeeper brings home a tiny white cat he can barely afford to feed. But when the village’s head priest commissions a painting of the Buddha for a healthy sum, the artist softens toward the animal he believes has brought him luck. According to legend, the proud and haughty cat was denied the Buddha’s blessing for refusing to accept his teachings and pay him homage. So when the artist, moved by compassion for his pet, includes the cat in his painting, the priest rejects the work and decrees that it must be destroyed. It seems the artist’s life is ruined as well -- until he is rewarded for his act of love by a Buddhist miracle.



The Samurai's Tale by Erik C. Haugaard

When the powerful Lord Takeda's soldiers sweep across the countryside, killing and plundering, they spare the boy Taro's life and take him along with them. Taro becomes a servant in the household of the noble Lord Akiyama, where he meets Togan, a cook, who teaches Taro and makes his new life bearable. But when Togan is murdered, Taro's life takes a new direction: He will become a samurai, and redeem the family legacy that has been stolen from him.

The Boy and the Samurai by Erik C. Haugaar

On his own in the teeming city, orphaned Saru learns to survive. He begs, steals, and fights for what he needs. He finds danger in bandits and street gangs, charity in tentative friendships with a priest and a cook's young daughter, and comfort from his little cat, Neko. But Saru trusts no one, until he meets a samurai and agrees to help in the rescue of his wife, held hostage in the castle. How can a street urchin and a lone warrior prevail?

Japanese Folk Tales (Audio) by Yei Theodora Ozaki

Here are 22 charming Japanese Fairy Tales, translated by Yei Theodora Ozaki, including "My Lord Bag of Rice", "The Tongue-Cut Sparrow", "The Story of Urashima Taro, the Fisher Lad", "The Farmer and the Badger", "The Shinansha, or the South Pointing Carriage", "The Adventures of Kintaro, the Golden Boy", "The Story of Princess Hase", "The Story of the Man Who Did Not Wish to Die", "The Bamboo-Cutter and the Moonchild", "The Mirror of Matsuyama", "The Goblin of Adachigahara", "The Sagacious Monkey and the Boar", "The Happy Hunter and the Skillful Fisher", "The Story of the Old Man Who Made Withered Trees to Flower", "The Jellyfish and the Monkey", "The Quarrel of the Monkey and the Crab", "The White Hare and the Crocodiles", "The Story of Prince Yamato Take", "Momotaro, or the Story of the Son of a Peach", "The Ogre of Rashomon", "How an Old Man Lost His Wen", and "The Stones of Five Colors and the Empress Jokwa".

Ninja AD 1460-1650 by Stephen Turnbull

The Ninja were the secret agents and assassins of feudal Japan and they remain a subject of enduring fascination. They first emerged during the power struggles of 9th and 10th century Japan, in response to the increasing demand for spies, informants and even assassins, and they were used until the mid-1600s when they disappeared on account of a campaign to destroy them. This title provides an accurate and detailed account of the reality of the Ninja, detailing their daily life, training, hiring, combat use and secret operations; also covered are the Ninja's use and knowledge of poisons, medicines and charms.

Born in the Year of Courage by Emily Crofford

In 1841, having been shipwrecked and picked up by an American whaling ship outside Japanese territorial waters, fifteen-year-old Manjiro decides to go live in America and work toward opening trade between his country and the West.

Commodore Perry in the Land of the Shogun by Rhoda Blumberg

For centuries, Japan had isolated itself from the outside world by refusing to trade with other countries and even refusing to help shipwrecked sailors, foreign or Japanese. The country's people still lived under a feudal system like that of Europe in the Middle Ages. But everything began to change when American Commodore Perry and his troops sailed to the Land of the Rising Sun, bringing with them new science and technology, and a new way of life.

YA: Breaking Open Japan: Commodore Perry, Lord Abe, and American Imperialism in 1853 by George Feifer

On July 14, 1853, the four warships of America's East Asia Squadron made for Kurihama, 30 miles south of the Japanese capital, then called Edo. It had come to pry open Japan after her two and a half centuries of isolation and nearly a decade of intense planning by Matthew Perry, the squadron commander. The spoils of the recent Mexican Spanish–American War had whetted a powerful American appetite for using her soaring wealth and power for commercial and political advantage. Perry's cloaking of imperial impulse in humanitarian purpose was fully matched by Japanese self–deception. High among the country's articles of faith was certainty of its protection by heavenly power. A distinguished Japanese scholar argued in 1811 that “Japanese differ completely from and are superior to the peoples of...all other countries of the world.” So began one of history's greatest political and cultural clashes.

The Big Wave by Pearl S. Buck

Kino lives on a farm on the side of a mountain in Japan. His friend, Jiya, lives in a fishing village below. Everyone, including Kino and Jiya, has heard of the big wave. No one suspects it will wipe out the whole village and Jiya's family, too. As Jiya struggles to overcome his sorrow, he understands it is in the presence of danger that one learns to be brave, and to appreciate how wonderful life can be. The famous story of a Japanese boy who must face life after escaping the tidal wave destruction of his family and village.

The Master Puppeteer by Katherine Paterson

Who is the man called Sabura, the mysterious bandit who robs the rich and helps the poor? And what is his connection with Yosida, the harsh and ill-tempered master of feudal Japan's most famous puppet theater? Young Jiro, an apprentice to Yosida, is determined to find out, even at risk to his own life. Meanwhile, Jiro devotes himself to learning puppetry. Kinshi, the puppet master's son, tutors him. When his sheltered life at the theater is shattered by mobs of hungry, rioting peasants, Jiro becomes aware of responsibilities greater than his craft. As he schemes to help his friend Kinshi and to find his own parent, Jiro stumbles onto a dangerous and powerful secret.

The Sign of the Chrysanthemum by Katherine Paterson

Muna has never known his father -- a samurai, a noble warrior. But Muna's mother has told Muna how he will know him one day: by the sign of the chrysanthemum. When his mother dies, Muna travels to the capital of twelfth-century Japan, a bewildering city on the verge of revolution. He finds a haven there, as servant to the great swordsmith, Fukuji. But Muna cannot forget his dream: He must find his father. Only then will he have power and a name to be reckoned with. Only then will he become a man.

Silkworms by Sylvia A. Johnson

An introduction to the domesticated silkworm moth, raised on farms in Japan and elsewhere for the sake of the silk thread out of which its cocoons are constructed.

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr

Born in Hiroshima in 1943, Sadako was the star of her school's running team, until the dizzy spells started and she was forced to face the hardest race of her life--the race against time.

One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children's Peace Statue by Ishii Takayuki

The inspirational story of the Japanese national campaign to build the Children's Peace Statue honoring Sadako and hundreds of other children who died as a result of the bombing of Hiroshima. Ten years after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Sadako Sasaki died as a result of atomic bomb disease. Sadako's determination to fold one thousand paper cranes and her courageous struggle with her illness inspired her classmates. After her death, they started a national campaign to build the Children's Peace Statue to remember Sadako and the many other children who were victims of the Hiroshima bombing. On top of the statue is a girl holding a large crane in her outstretched arms. Today in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, this statue of Sadako is beautifully decorated with thousands of paper cranes given by people throughout the world.

Kazunomiya: Prisoner of Heaven, Japan 1858 by Kathryn Lasky

Intrigue and danger increase as Princess Kazunomiya's once-sheltered life in nineteenth-century Japan changes, in Newbery Honor author Kathryn Lasky's latest addition to The Royal Diaries series. Kazunomiya, along with her royal family, is thought to be a divinity, descended from the goddess of the sun, and she lives an extremely sheltered life. However, when a Japanese general signs a treaty with the white-faced men from America, uncertainty and turmoil erupt in the kingdom. But the external threats do not compare to the tangled intrigue, romance, and politics that dominate the imperial palace, as wives and queens plot to destroy Kazunomiya and her mother.

Korea

The Kite Fighters by Linda Sue Park

In a riveting narrative set in fifteenth-century Korea, two brothers discover a shared passion for kites. Kee-sup can craft a kite unequalled in strength and beauty, but his younger brother, Young-sup, can fly a kite as if he controlled the wind itself. Their combined skills attract the notice of Korea's young king, who chooses Young-sup to fly the royal kite in the New Year kite-flying competition--an honor that is also an awesome responsibility. Although tradition decrees, and the boys' father insists, that the older brother represent the family, both brothers know that this time the family's honor is best left in Young-sup's hands. This touching and suspenseful story, filled with the authentic detail and flavor of traditional Korean kite fighting, brings a remarkable setting vividly to life.

NW 2002: A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

12th Century Korea. Tree-ear, an orphan, lives under a bridge in Ch'ulp'o, a potters' village famed for delicate celadon ware. He has become fascinated with the potter's craft; he wants nothing more than to watch master potter Min at work, and he dreams of making a pot of his own someday. When Min takes Tree-ear on as his helper, Tree-ear is elated — until he finds obstacles in his path: the backbreaking labor of digging and hauling clay, Min's irascible temper, and his own ignorance. But Tree-ear is determined to prove himself — even if it means taking a long, solitary journey on foot to present Min's work in the hope of a royal commission . . . even if it means arriving at the royal court with nothing to show but a single celadon shard.

Sondok: Princess of the Moon and Stars (Royal Diaries) by Sheri Holman

THE ROYAL DIARIES is pleased to introduce historical novelist, Sheri Holman, who makes her debut on the list with a captivating story of fourteen-year-old Princess Sondok from seventh-century Korea. During the seventh-century, the land which is now Korea was fraught with political and religious intrigue. The country was split into Three Kingdoms, each fighting for supremacy: Silla, Koguryo, and Paekche. Besides the warring kingdoms, there are three religions in conflict: Shamanism, the ancient female-dominated faith wherein Shamanist priestesses wield great power at court, foretelling the future, performing important national rituals, and healing sickness; Buddhism, the contemplative State religion; and Confucianism, a recent import from powerful China.

Mongolia

HH, YA: Genghis Khan by Jacob Abbott

The story of Genghis Khan provides a fascinating picture of the nomadic tribes of Asia. At its height, Khan's empire extended all the way from China to Turkistan and was composed of hundreds of tribes of nomadic warriors. No town, no matter how well fortified, was safe from his seemingly endless horde of followers. No enemy that resisted him escaped his grasp.

Mongols by Robert Nicholson

Provides a description of the history and culture of this nomadic Asian people.

Genghis Khan and the Mongol Horde by Harold Lamb

Excellent, historic story well told by Harold Lamb and beautifully illustrated by Elton Fax. Originally published in 1954, this paperback edition was released in 1982.

I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade by Diane Wilson

When Oyuna was a baby, a horse accidentally crushed her foot, cursing her family with bad luck. Oyuna vows to restore good fortune to her family...but how? One fateful day, soldiers from the great Khan's army invade her village to steal horses and gather new soldiers. In hopes of bringing honor to her family,

Oyuna courageously disguises herself as a boy and joins the soldiers on their quest. With only her horse and her cat to keep her company, Oyuna sets off on an amazing journey across deserts and mountains—a journey that will change her life forever.

NW 1938: The White Stag by Kate Seredy

5th Century Huns. Retells the legendary story of the Huns' and Magyars' long migration from Asia to Europe where they hope to find a permanent home.

China

VIDEO: Discovery Atlas

Netflix. China Revealed.

VIDEO: Wild China

Netflix. This six-part series uncovers some of the most exotic and uncharted natural habitats hidden within the vast and diverse topography of China, including Yunnan's forests, the Tibetan plateau, the Silk Road and the Mongol steppes.

VIDEO: Silk Road Journey From China Through Central Asia

Amazon Instant Video. Steeped in history, colored by centuries of lore, a journey along the ancient route of the Silk Road is the ultimate travel experience.

VIDEO: Trekking the World: China

Amazon Instant Video. Damon treks the rural heartland of China's remote provinces to meet some of the nation's most colorful and distinct ethnic minorities. In a land of 1.3 billion people he seeks out the distant villages and peoples that time forgot.

HH, MS: The Story of China by R. Van Bergen

This book gives an excellent short history of China from the beginning of its civilization to the fall of the Manchu Monarchy in the early 20th century. In addition to historical development, there are many chapters devoted to Chinese customs and culture, including their system of government, language, schools, home life, and traditions.

HH, MS: China's Story by William Griffis

In addition to providing a chronological history of China, the author delves into some detail regarding customs, art, and special incidents in order to give flavor and insight into the unique Chinese culture. Topics such as tea drinking, foot-binding, and various superstitions are explained as well as the character of the Chinese government. This book was written during the midst of the Chinese republic, and gives an interesting perspective into western hopes for China in the early 20th century.

HH, YA: Historical Tales - Japanese and Chinese by Charles Morris

The stories in this volume cover the histories of both Japan and China from their earliest history, to the close of the 19th century. The stories given are a selection of the most interesting and romantic incidents in these ancient kingdoms, featuring characters who are well-known in these Asian countries, but not may be unfamiliar to western readers.

Maples in the Mist by Minfong Ho

Picture book. A collection of short poems written over 1000 years ago by such poets of the Tang Dynasty as Li Po, Yin Luan, and Du Mu.

Lady White Snake: A Tale From Chinese Opera by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. Lady White is a thousand-year-old snake who, through centuries of meditation and self-discipline, has managed to attain human form. On a visit to China's famous West Lake, she falls in love with a young man and soon becomes his wife. But when a Buddhist abbot discovers her true origin, she must fight for both her marriage and her freedom.

The Magic Brocade: A Tale of China by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. No brocades are more lovely or lifelike than the ones the widow weaves to sell at the marketplace. One day she returns home with a marvelous painting of a fairy palace, and her son Chen suggests that she weave the image as a brocade. Devoting all her loving skill, she creates the finest brocade of her life. But so fine it is that the fairies of the palace send a wind to carry it off for themselves. Knowing his mother will die without her beloved creation, Chen starts out after it. But the way to the fairy palace lies over Fiery Mountain and across the Icy Sea. Even if he gets there, will the fairies give up the brocade?

The Monkey King: A Superhero Tale of China, Retold from The Journey to the West by Aaron Shepard

If you think Superman or Spiderman has been around a long time, think about Monkey. He has been China's favorite superhero for at least five centuries. He's amazingly strong, he can fly, and he has a few tricks those other superheroes never heard of. And he's always ready to do battle with demons, dragons -- sometimes even the gods. Monkey stars in *The Journey to the West*, an epic comic fantasy from the sixteenth century. The part retold here is about Monkey's origin and early career -- and the one time he didn't come out on top.

Mission to Cathay by Madeleine Polland

A fictional story of Matteo Ricci, the first Roman Catholic ambassador to enter China.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

In the valley of Fruitless Mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an

extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.

Starry River of the Sky by Grace Lin

The moon is missing from the remote Village of Clear Sky, but only a young boy named Rendi seems to notice! Rendi has run away from home and is now working as a chore boy at the village inn. He can't help but notice the village's peculiar inhabitants and their problems—where has the innkeeper's son gone? Why are Master Chao and Widow Yan always arguing? What is the crying sound Rendi keeps hearing? And how can crazy, old Mr. Shan not know if his pet is a toad or a rabbit? But one day, a mysterious lady arrives at the Inn with the gift of storytelling, and slowly transforms the villagers and Rendi himself. As she tells more stories and the days pass in the Village of Clear Sky, Rendi begins to realize that perhaps it is his own story that holds the answers to all those questions.

NW 1933: Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze by Elizabeth Lewis

When Young Fu arrives with his mother in bustling 1920s Chungking, all he has seen of the world is the rural farming village where he has grown up. He knows nothing of city life. But the city, with its wonders and dangers, fascinates the 13-year-old boy, and he sets out to make the best of what it has to offer him.

The House of Sixty Fathers by Meindert DeJong

Tien Pao is all alone in enemy territory. Only a few days before, his family had escaped from the Japanese army, fleeing downriver by boat. Then came the terrible rainstorm. Tien Pao was fast asleep in the little sampan when the boat broke loose from its moorings and drifted right back to the Japanese soldiers. With only his lucky pig for company, Tien Pao must begin a long and dangerous journey in search of his home and family.

God's Adventurer: A Story of Daring, Danger and Dependence on God by Phyllis Thompson

Hudson Taylor was a teenager when God told him to go to China. Though he was alone, broke and critically ill, he hung on to that goal and to the God who was sending him. Would God be enough? Danger and adventure abound in this true story of a man who dared to risk and trust.

Homesick by Jean Fritz

This is the twenty-fifth anniversary of Jean Fritz's award-winning account of her life in China, and to honor this story, it is only fitting that it be added to our prestigious line of Puffin Modern Classics. This fictionalized autobiography tells the heartwarming story of a little girl growing up in an unfamiliar place. While other girls her age were enjoying their childhood in America, Jean Fritz was in China in the midst of political unrest. Jean Fritz tells her captivating story of the difficulties of living in a unfamiliar country at such a difficult time.

Li Lun, Lad of Courage by Carolyn Treffinger

Banished to a mountaintop to learn to grow rice, Li Lun proves his courage as he fights the elements and his own loneliness to make his rice seedlings flourish where no one else has for generations.

The Song of Mu Lan by Jeanne M. Lee

Mu Lan is at her loom when she hears the Emperor's call to arms. She rides off to war in her father's stead, embarking on a journey of ten thousand miles that takes her away from home for ten years. Her courage and valor bring her to the Emperor's attention and to the Golden Court. When offered whatever she wishes as a reward, she asks only to go home. There she surprises her mother and father, sister and brother--but it is her comrades in arms who are most surprised of all. The Song of Mu Lan is closely translated from an ancient text and echoes the rhythms of Chinese, which is here faithfully reproduced in original calligraphy by Chan Bo Wan, the artist's father.

Legend of Mu Lan: A Heroine of Ancient China Wei Jiang and Cheng an Jiang

In ancient, war-torn China, hundreds and hundreds of men were called upon to defend their homeland. Unknown to all, there stood one female among the soldiers. Disguised as her brother, in order to take her father's place in the army, heroine Mu Lan bravely defends her country with superior martial arts.

Lady of Ch'iao Kuo: Warrior of the South, Southern China, A.D. 531 by Laurence Yep

The Royal Diaries proudly presents two-time Newbery Honor author Laurence Yep, whose stunning diary of sixteen-year-old Lady of Ch'iao Kuo takes readers on a remarkable adventure to Southern China in the sixth century A.D., where Ch'iao Kuo, a born leader called Red Bird, is courageous and keenly intelligent.

NW 1926: Shen of the Sea by Arthur Bowie Chrisman

A series of fascinating Chinese stories, strong in humor and rich in Chinese wisdom, in which the author has caught admirably the spirit of Chinese life and thought.

Viet Nam

The Crystal Heart: A Vietnamese Legend by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. As the daughter of a great mandarin, Mi Nuong leads a sheltered life. But one day, sitting in her tower, a song floats to her from a distant fishing boat on the river. The voice is so beautiful, she knows the singer must be young and handsome -- perhaps even a mandarin's son in disguise. Could it be that the song is for her? She longs to meet him, but how? And what will she find if she does? In this poignant legend, a young lady discovers that appearances can deceive, but the heart speaks true.

The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam by Quang Nhuong Huynh

Huynh Quang Nhuong grew up in the highlands of Vietnam, next to the jungle teeming with wildlife. Encounters with tigers, wild hogs, and deadly snakes were as much a part of his life as tending the rice fields while on the back of his pet water buffalo, Tank. Here are fifteen tales that will transport you into a world of lush beauty and terrible danger -- and a way of life that is gone forever.

Southeast Asia

The Adventures of Mouse Deer: Favorite Folktales of Southeast Asia by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. "I'm quick and smart as I can be. Try and try, but you can't catch me!" Mouse Deer sings his song as he walks through the forest looking for tasty fruits and roots and shoots. Though he is small, he is not afraid. He knows that many big animals want to eat him -- but first they have to catch him! In these delightful trickster tales from Southeast Asia, find out how Mouse Deer gets the best of his enemies -- Tiger, Crocodile, and the most dangerous animal of all, Farmer!

India

VIDEO: National Geographic: Secrets of Wild India

Amazon Instant Video. India proves to be an extraordinarily diverse country, its landscape shared between one-fifth of the world's human population and its spectacular wildlife.

HH, ER: Jataka Tales by Ellen C. Babbitt

The Jatakas are 'birth stories' based on sacred Buddhist texts from the east. These eighteen fables from the Jatakas of India are skillfully retold and strikingly illustrated. They include The Monkey and the Crocodile, The Merchant of Seri, The Turtle Who Wouldn't Stop Talking, The Foolish Timid Rabbit, The Banyan Deer, and many others.

HH, ER: More Jataka Tales by Ellen C. Babbitt

This is the second volume of The Jataka tales, or 'birth stories', that are based on sacred Buddhist texts, some dating as far back as the third century B. C. They are among the oldest collection of folklore extant, and like Aesop's fables, teach interesting moral and life lessons with the use of interesting characters.

HH, MS: Peeps at History - India by Beatrice Home

This history of India begins well before era of British colonization, during the age of the invasion of Alexander the Great, which was the west's first contact with the east. For much of the next millennium various Moslem lords rules parts of northern India. Finally, in the eighteenth century, France and Britain contested for control of the Asian trade centered in India, and for the following two centuries, India was Britain's most important colony.

HH, MS: The Story of the Buddha by Edith Holland

This book tells the story of the legendary life of Siddhartha, founder of the Buddhist faith. He born in Nepal in the 5th century B.C. as a prince. His father tried to protect him from sights of human suffering, but he eventually escaped palace life to embark on a spiritual quest. He eschewed wealth and became a monk to contemplate the meaning of life. After becoming enlightened Siddhartha is said to have traveled throughout India spreading his doctrines and founding monasteries.

HH, MS: The Adventures of Akbar by F. A. Steel

Akbar the Great, who lived about the same time as Queen Elizabeth I. of England, was one of the most renowned emperors of the Mughal empire in India. This story, follows some of his adventures as a small boy, when under the protection of servants loyal to his parents, he had to flee across the mountains to escape from his families enemies.

HH, YA: India by Victor Surridge

This book is part of the Romance of Empire series, written at the height of the British empire. It recounts many of the most exciting events in the history of India, from around the time Britain first established a trading post on the continent, in the 1600's, until the decades following the Indian Mutiny, in 1857. The treatment of Britain's involvement in India is somewhat sympathetic, although many of the greatest blunders and questionable policies of the British Raj are owned up to squarely.

HH, YA: Heroes of the Indian Mutiny by Edward Gilliat

This book is not a comprehensive history of the Indian Mutiny, but rather, the life stories of many of the British heroes who were involved in the struggle. It is therefore best appreciated by someone already familiar with the course of events who is interested in learning more details of the battles and the background of the British presence in India prior to the mutiny.

Our Empire Story by H. E. Marshall

MainLesson.com. Vivid and picturesque account of the principal events in the building of the British Empire. Traces the development of the British colonies from days of discovery and exploration through settlement and establishment of government. Includes stories of the five chief portions of the Empire: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and India.

Savitri: A Tale of Ancient India by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. Beauty and intelligence were the princess Savitri's, and eyes that shone like the sun. So splendid was she that people thought her a goddess. When at last she found a man worthy to wed her, no one could sway her from her heart's path -- not even the god of death. This lovely retelling presents a classic tale of devotion, courage, wit, and will from India's national epic, The Mahabharata.

The Gifts of Wali Dad: A Tale of India and Pakistan by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. Though Wali Dad lives in a hut, he feels he needs nothing more than he has. So when he sees that the coins he has saved have filled a pot to the brim, he isn't sure what to do with the money. At last he buys a lovely gold bracelet and sends it as a gift to the Queen of Khaistan. But what will he do with the gorgeous silks that the Queen sends back? Why, send them to the King of Nekabad! And when the King sends back twelve fine horses, who should get them but the Queen of Khaistan? The gifts and the humor keep growing until it takes two heavenly visitors to set things right, in this charming folktale from the Punjab.

Rickshaw Girl by Mitali Perkins

Ten-year-old Naima longs to earn money to help her poor Bangladeshi family, but her talent in painting traditional patterns, or alpanas, is no use. While considering whether she could disguise herself as a boy

and try to drive her father's rickshaw, she wrecks the vehicle and its painted tin sides on a test-drive, threatening the family's sole livelihood. Her solution is to steal away, disguised as a boy, to a repair shop and offer her services painting decorations on the rickshaws. She is surprised to find that the owner is a woman. When Naima reveals herself, she is hired on the condition that her father will keep bringing her for training at the shop, so that her paintings will help the business.

NW 1928: Gay Neck, the Story of a Pigeon by Dhan Gopal Mukerji

India.

Daughter of the Mountains (Newbery Library, Puffin) by Louise S. Rankin

Momo has always wanted a Lhasa terrier--a dog like the ones the Tibetan Buddhist priests hold sacred in their temples. When a trader brings Pempa to her parents' teahouse, Momo's dream comes true. Then a band of robbers steals the valuable dog, and to recover him, Momo must make a dangerous journey she may not survive. A Newbery Honor Book

Teresa of Calcutta: Serving the Poorest of the Poor by D. Jeanene Watson

The inspiring and challenging story of Mother Teresa who, for more than 40 years sought to be "the arms of Christ" to the poorest of the poor in the slums of Calcutta.

The Royal Diaries: Jahanara, Princess Of Princesses by Kathryn Lasky

Experience the sumptuous wealth and the unforgettable drama within the Moghul Dynasty of seventeenth-century India. In the 1600s, the Moghul emperors of India were among the greatest and most superb rulers of the East. Jahanara is the daughter of one of these powerful figures, Shah Jahan, The Magnificent. A lover of refinement, his courts are of the finest architecture, priceless painting, unbelievable gardens, and ultra-fabulous wealth.

YA: Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta by Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa was one of the most revered people of the 20th century, so it is no surprise that 10 years after her death people still want to know what impelled this poor, humble Albanian woman to give her life to God so completely. Kolodiejchuk, a Catholic priest and friend of Mother Teresa's who is actively promoting her cause for sainthood, assembles a startling and impressive collection of her writings, most of which have never been seen by the public. Two themes especially shine through in Mother Teresa's letters, namely, her absolute conviction that she was doing God's will, and a deep and surprising chasm of darkness within her that some would call the dark night of the soul. It is also apparent that this saintly woman was no pushover. In her quest to found the Missionaries of Charity, she aggressively pursued approval from her bishop, fully confident that God desired this work to be done.

Middle East

HH, ER: Stories from the Arabian Nights by Amy Steedman

Like most other books from the Told to the Children series, this book condenses its source volume, Arabian Nights by restricting itself to only a few tales so that each can be told with great interest. The selected stories are relatively famous selections, including Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, Aladdin and the Lamp, The Enchanted Horse, and Sinbad the Sailor.

HH, MS: The Arabian Nights by Andrew Lang

Lang's rendition of the great tales from the Arabian Nights has been a children's favorite for over a hundred years. Some of the best known tales include the Merchant and the Genius, the Fisherman, Adventures of Haroun-al-Raschid, the Blind Baba Abdalla, Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp, and of course, the seven voyages of Sinbad the Sailor. Like many of Lang's books, the Arabian Nights is beautifully illustrated by Mr. H. J. Ford.

HH, MS: The Story of Mohammed by Edith Holland

This book tells the life story of Mohammed, founder of Islam, from his early years as a camel driver who married a wealthy widow, to his eventual triumph over all of the pagans who controlled the worship of religious idols at the Kaaba in Mecca. Mohammed and his small band of followers endured decades of persecution before prevailing over his enemies and bringing Arabia to the new faith.

HH, MS: The Lance of Kanana by Harry French

This dramatic story of an Arabian shepherd boy whose courage and cleverness help save Arabia from an attack by the Byzantine forces is a terrific romance that illustrates the life of the Arab Bedouins in the early seventh century. The boy delivers messages between the Caliph and his general, Kahmed, and later, spies on the Byzantine camp. The portrayal of a noble and courageous, but peace-loving Mohammedan boy is entertaining, but entirely fictional.

HH, MS: Barbary Rovers by John Finnemore

This book gives a short but fascinating history of the Barbary pirates from the time the Moors were driven from Spain in 1492 until the overthrow of Algeria by France in the late 1800's. For nearly four hundred years, the Barbary pirates were the terror of the Mediterranean and took thousands of Christian European captives. The story of their depredations is both tragic and entertaining.

HH, YA: The Moors in Spain by M. Florian

A brief history of the seven hundred year reign of the Moors in Spain, from Tariq's conquest of the Visigoths at the Battle of Guadalete in 711 to the expulsion of the Moors from Granada in 1492. The chronology of the Moorish kingdom is in three parts: first, the Umayyad caliphs of Cordova, second, the period of decline following the successful reign of Almanzor, and finally the story of the kingdom of Granada, which was ruled by Christian kings for two hundred years.

HH, YA: Greatest Nations - Turkey by C. F. Horne

This history tells the story of the Rise and Fall of the Ottoman empire in Turkey. It begins with the rise of Osman, who laid the foundation of the Ottoman kingdom during the thirteenth century, immediately after the Crusades. It follows the rising fortunes of the Ottomans to their height in the 16th century, and their gradual decline. By the 19th century the Ottoman Empire was dominated by European powers and it expired entirely after the Great War.

HH, YA: Eothen - Travel in the East by A. W. Kinglake

This delightful travelogue of a young Englishman's journey through the middle east, in 1835 has become a permanent classic. The authors personal observations of the characters he encounters, including Pashas, interpreters, camel merchants, slave-traders, magicians, Bedouins, governors, soldiers, Jews, monks, pilgrims, and even a famous expatriate stateswoman turned astrologist, are all amusing and give great insight into the Arab character. Kinglake braved the plague, and numerous other ills in order to undertake these travels when transportation in the area was still quite difficult and dangerous, so many of his adventures are hair-raising as well as humorous.

HH, YA: Haremlik by Demetra Vaka

Written by a Greek woman who grew up in Turkey, this book gives a first hand account of the lives of various women who live in polygamous marriages in Ottoman Turkey. The author, who was educated in Europe, spent months visiting her childhood friends and inquiring of them their opinions on marriage, love, slavery, men, women, motherhood, and life in the harem. Their responses illustrate the vast difference between western and eastern world-views.

HH, YA: Stories of the Magicians by Alfred J. Church

These stories from the Persian chronicles have been retold with great skill by a master storyteller. In addition to many well-known stories about the Persian hero Rustem, the Stories of the Thalaba and Kehama are also given. Most of the legends in this book pertain to the doing of magicians and sorcerers who read the stars, cast spells and bestow magic power on people.

HH, YA: Harun Al-Rashid by Gabriel Audisio

This biography of Harun al-Rashid, the greatest Caliph of the early Abbasid empire, was based on Masudi's account. It recounts the rise of Harun under the guidance of his ambitious mother, the fall of the powerful Barmecide family, the height of Harun's power, his relations with surrounding empires, and the tragedies attending his later years.

Forty Fortunes: A Tale of Iran by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. Ahmed is content with the living he can make with a pick and a shovel, but that isn't good enough for his wife Jamell. On her insistence, he finds himself sitting in the marketplace with the dice and board and robe of a fortuneteller. Imagine his surprise when what he tells his first client comes true! But soon Ahmed is in real peril, when the king calls upon him to discover the thieves of his royal treasure. On one hand is the king with his threat of prison -- on the other are the forty thieves who fear Ahmed will reveal them. Can anything save him now? Find out in this most popular folktale of the Islamic world.

The Enchanted Storks: A Tale of Bagdad by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. The Calif and his trusted Vizier love to disguise themselves as merchants and wander through their beloved city of Bagdad. One day a peddler in the marketplace sells them a jewelled snuffbox with a magic spell tucked inside. They're delighted when the spell changes them into storks -- until they find they can't change back! A wicked brother, an evil sorcerer, and a lovely princess -- all are part of this classic fairy tale, created in 19th-century Germany yet now told by storytellers of the Middle East.

The Arabs in the Golden Age by Mokhtar Moktefi

Describes the period when the Arabs spread their religion, art, architecture, and great knowledge throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

Abu Ali: Three Tales of the Middle East by Dorothy Van Woerkom

Abu Ali is fooled by his friends, tricks them in turn, and even fools himself in three humorous stories of trickery based on folklore of the Middle East.

Seven Daughters and Seven Sons by Barbara Cohen

In an ancient Arab nation, one woman dares to be different. Buran cannot -- Buran will not sit quietly at home and wait to be married to the man her father chooses. Determined to use her skills and earn a fortune, she instead disguises herself as a boy and travels by camel caravan to a distant city. There, she maintains her masculine disguise and establishes a successful business. The city's crown prince comes often to her shop, and soon Buran finds herself falling in love. But if she reveals to Mahmud that she is a woman, she will lose everything she has worked for.

Shadow Spinner (A Jean Karl Book) by Susan Fletcher

Every night, Shahrazad begins a story. And every morning, the Sultan lets her live another day -- providing the story is interesting enough to capture his attention. After almost one thousand nights, Shahrazad is running out of tales. And that is how Marjan's story begins.... It falls to Marjan to help Shahrazad find new stories -- ones the Sultan has never heard before. To do that, the girl is forced to undertake a dangerous and forbidden mission: sneak from the harem and travel the city, pulling tales from strangers and bringing them back to Shahrazad. But as she searches the city, a wonderful thing happens. From a quiet spinner of tales, Marjan suddenly becomes the center of a more surprising story than she ever could have imagined.

Ali and the Golden Eagle by Wayne Grover

An American working in Saudi Arabia befriends a boy from a remote village and helps him train an eagle to hunt.

Habibi by Naomi Shihab Nye

The day after Liyana got her first real kiss, her life changed forever. Not because of the kiss, but because it was the day her father announced that the family was moving from St. Louis all the way to Palestine. Though her father grew up there, Liyana knows very little about her family's Arab heritage. Her grandmother and the rest of her relatives who live in the West Bank are strangers, and speak a language she can't understand. It isn't until she meets Omer that her homesickness fades. But Omer is Jewish,

and their friendship is silently forbidden in this land. How can they make their families understand? And how can Liyana ever learn to call this place home?

NW 1962: The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth George Speare

1st Century Judaea. This gripping, action-packed novel tells the story of eighteen-year-old Daniel bar Jamin—a fierce, hotheaded young man bent on revenging his father’s death by forcing the Romans from his land of Israel. Daniel’s palpable hatred for Romans wanes only when he starts to hear the gentle lessons of the traveling carpenter, Jesus of Nazareth. A fast-paced, suspenseful, vividly wrought tale of friendship, loyalty, the idea of home, community . . . and ultimately, as Jesus says to Daniel on page 224: “Can’t you see, Daniel, it is hate that is the enemy? Not men. Hate does not die with killing. It only springs up a hundredfold. The only thing stronger than hate is love.” A powerful, relevant read in turbulent times.

Russia

HH, MS: The Story of Russia by R. Van Bergen

This book gives the history of the Russian Slavic people from the Russian kingdom, founded by Rurik the Viking, to the years immediately before the Russian Revolution. The History of the Slavic people begins in towns and trading villages along Volga and Don Rivers. The Tartar invasion in the 13th century put Russia under the Mongol yoke for nearly two hundred years, but gradually, after Peter the Great brought Russia into the modern world, Russia become a great European power. By the end of the 19th century, however, her degenerate monarchy was ripe for revolution.

HH, MS: When I was a Boy in Russia by Vladimir de Bogory

This book tells the fascinating story of how a young nobleman of great promise, growing up in 19th century Russia, became attracted to the revolutionary ideas popular among the upper classes of Old Russia. He tells of his involvement in early revolutionary movements, and of his disillusionment, arrest, imprisonment and escape to the west. This book was written shortly before the communist takeover, so give a wonderful portrayal of pre-revolutionary Russia. It is written at a very easy-to-read level, but very absorbing for older students as well.

HH, YA: Historical Tales - Russian by Charles Morris

This collection of stories from Poland and Russia begin with the Scythians, thought to be the predecessors of the Slavs, to the years immediately preceding the Russian Revolution. The stories of the earliest governors of Novgorod and the principality of Moscow are given, and the complete tale of Russia’s rise from obscurity to one of the most powerful empires on the globe.

HH, YA: History of Russia by Nathan Dole

This is a detailed and richly illustrated history of the Russian people from the founding of the Rurick Dynasty, near Novgorod, to the early reign of Nicholas II, several decades before the Bolshevik Revolution. The book gives an especially detailed history of the Russian middle ages, including the

reigns of Ivan, Basil, and the Tsars who lived before Peter the Great. The political situation during the 19th century, when Russia was at the height of her power and at war with the Turks and their European allies, is also well covered.

HH, YA: Peter the Great by Jacob Abbott

By sheer force of will, Peter the Great single-handedly imposed modernization on a highly resistant Russia. He overcame foes from within his country, including his sister Sophia, whom the anti-modernist forces favored for the throne. He overcame Charles XII of Sweden, his great rival for control of the Baltic, in spite of overwhelming defeats. He considered his son Alexis unworthy of the throne and had him killed rather than trust his kingdom to a libertine.

HH, YA: When the Prussians Came to Poland by L. DeGozdawa

This first person account of a American woman trapped in occupied Poland during the early years of the First World War gives a moving and chilling account of the atrocities perpetrated by the Prussian army. The arrogance of the Germans toward “inferior” races was tempered by the fact that the author claimed American citizenship, yet her sympathies were always with the oppressed Poles and Russians who were considered an inferior breed and brutally mistreated.

HH, YA: Escape from the Soviets by T. Tchernavin

This book was written by the wife of a scientist who was imprisoned by the Soviet government. The first part of the book tells of her ordeal as both she and her husband are arrested, interrogated, and imprisoned, for no apparent reason. The second part tells of her daring escape with her husband and son from a Soviet prison camp north of the Arctic circle through the desolate wilderness of Northern Russia. It is a deeply moving, personal, and frightening account of a brutal, senseless, and utterly tyrannical government.

HH, YA: I Speak for the Silent by V. Tchernavin

This deeply moving, and frightfully truthful book about the horrors of Soviet communism was written by one of the early victims of Stalin’s Reign of Terror. The author was a Russian scientist who escaped from a labor-prison in Northern Russia and lived to tell the truth about the Soviet system. His story provides a horrifying portrait of a totalitarian state with no regard for human rights or dignity, but it was dismissed as “anti-Soviet propaganda” by many western apologists for socialism when it was first published in 1934.

The Sea King’s Daughter: A Russian Legend by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. Sadko the musician loved his city of Novgorod, the richest and most free in all Russia. With its great feasts, its white stone churches, its merchant visitors from many lands, Sadko felt there was no better place to be. Yet he was lonely too, for the rich young ladies who danced to his music would never favor anyone so poor. One night he takes his twelve-string gusli and goes alone to play by the River Volkhov. Suddenly from the water rises the Sea King, who invites the astonished musician to play at his underwater palace. But how will Sadko get there? And how will he get back? And will he want to return at all, when he meets the Sea King’s lovely daughter?

Breaking Stalin's Nose by Eugene Yelchin

Sasha Zaichik has known the laws of the Soviet Young Pioneers since the age of six:

The Young Pioneer is devoted to Comrade Stalin, the Communist Party, and Communism. A Young Pioneer is a reliable comrade and always acts according to conscience. A Young Pioneer has a right to criticize shortcomings. But now that it is finally time to join the Young Pioneers, the day Sasha has awaited for so long, everything seems to go awry. He breaks a classmate's glasses with a snowball. He accidentally damages a bust of Stalin in the school hallway. And worst of all, his father, the best Communist he knows, was arrested just last night. This moving story of a ten-year-old boy's world shattering is masterful in its simplicity, powerful in its message, and heartbreaking in its plausibility.

The Endless Steppe: Growing Up in Siberia by Esther Hautzig

In June 1942, the Rudomin family is arrested by the Russians. They are “capitalists -- enemies of the people.” Forced from their home and friends in Vilna, Poland, they are herded into crowded cattle cars. Their destination: the endless steppe of Siberia. For five years, Ester and her family live in exile, weeding potato fields and working in the mines, struggling for enough food and clothing to stay alive. Only the strength of family sustains them and gives them hope for the future.

St. Petersburg Trilogy by Gloria Whelan

Angel on the Square, The Impossible Journey, and Burying the Sun.

YA: Animal Farm by George Orwell

As ferociously fresh as it was more than a half century ago, this remarkable allegory of a downtrodden society of overworked, mistreated animals and their quest to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality is one of the most scathing satires ever published. As readers witness the rise and bloody fall of the revolutionary animals, they begin to recognize the seeds of totalitarianism in the most idealistic organization—and in the most charismatic leaders, the souls of the cruelest oppressors.

YA: 1984 by George Orwell

Written in 1948, 1984 was George Orwell's chilling prophecy about the future. And while 1984 has come and gone, Orwell's narrative is more timely than ever. 1984 presents a “negative utopia,” that is at once a startling and haunting vision of the world—so powerful that it is completely convincing from start to finish. No one can deny the power of this novel, its hold on the imaginations of entire generations of readers, or the resiliency of its admonitions—a legacy that seems to grow, not lessen, with the passage of time.

Catherine: The Great Journey, Russia, 1743 (The Royal Diaries) by Kristiana Gregory

Drama and intrigue explode in the story of young Princess Catherine's incredible journey to greatness. Fourteen-year-old Prussian princess Sophia finds herself entangled in her mother's efforts to arrange a marriage between Sophia and Charles-Peter, a young German duke and nephew of the Russian empress Elizabeth. As Sophia's mother moves to make the match, she and Sophia must travel from their humble home in Zerbst, Prussia, to Russia--the kingdom of Elizabeth. There, Sophia is renamed Catherine and married to Charles-Peter, but she watches helplessly as her family is torn from her, her own mother is involved in a spying ring against the empress, and all that is familiar to her disappears.

Anastasia: The Last Grand Duchess, Russia, 1914 Carolyn Meyer

Thirteen-year-old Anastasia is the youngest daughter of Czar Nicholas II, ruler of Russia. Anastasia is used to a life of luxury; her major concerns are how to get out of her detested schoolwork to play in the snow, go ice-skating, or have picnics. It's a fairy tale life -- until everything changes with the outbreak of war between Russia and Germany. As Russia enters WWI, hunger and poverty grows among the peasants, and soon they are not pleased with their ruler. While the czar is trying win a war and save their country, the country is turning on the royal family.

.....EUROPE

Medieval Europe

HH, MS: The Story of Europe by H. E. Marshall

This book presents the broader movements of European history, emphasizing the main factors which have gone into the development of the various European states from the fall of the Roman Empire to the Reformation. The history of England is included only when that country plays a prominent part in the politics of Europe. A full treatment of the period immediately following the fall of the Roman Empire is given, since that period provides the necessary key to future developments. Maps, timelines, and genealogy charts of the various royal houses of Europe contribute to making this book an excellent resource for the study of the Middle Ages in Europe.

NW 1987: The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman

Medieval Europe. Jemmy, once a poor boy living on the streets, now lives in a castle. As the whipping boy, he bears the punishment when Prince Brat misbehaves, for it is forbidden to spank, thrash, or whack the heir to the throne. The two boys have nothing in common and even less reason to like one another. But when they find themselves taken hostage after running away, they are left with no choice but to trust each other.

England

HH, ER: Our Little Saxon Cousin by Julia D. Cowles

This book tells the story of a Saxon boy name Turgar who lived at the during the age of Alfred the Great. He was educated at Crowland abbey and was present during its sacking by the Danes. The story tells the details of his life at the abbey and shows how the monasteries were an important part of mediaeval life. After many adventures, Turgar joins the army of Alfred the Great to help keep Britain safe from the Danish invaders.

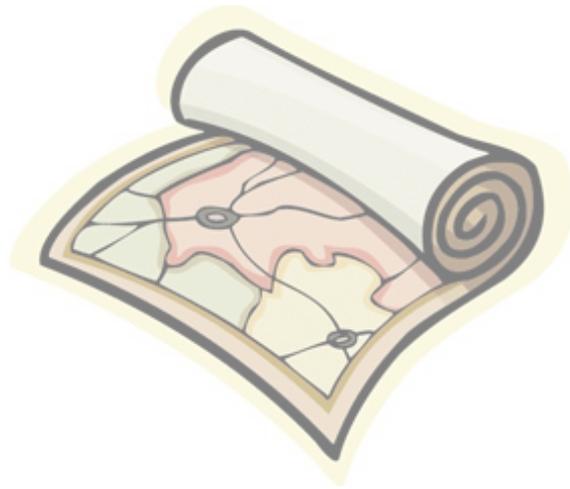
HH, ER: Otto of the Silver Hand by Howard Pyle

This story is set in the middle ages. The principle character is a boy, born of a noble family, who is raised in a monastery to protect him from the vicious rivalries that his father is involved with. At the age of twelve he is retrieved by his father, the Baron Conrad. No sooner does his knightly training begin, but he is kidnapped by his fathers bitterest enemy. It is a beautifully written story of love, honor, courage, chivalry, and forgiveness; one of Pyle's classic contributions to children's literature.

Stories From England: Oxford Children's Myths and Legends by James Reeves

Stories from England is a lively collection that brings to life the very best English traditional fairy-

tales and stories. From Johnny Gloke the giant killer and the frog prince at the World's End, to the better-known characters of Dick Whittington and Tom Thumb, this magical collection is full of adventure and humor.



The 100-Year-Old Secret (Sherlock Files) by Tracy Barrett

Xena and Xander Holmes think living in London will be boring. But one afternoon they're handed a cryptic note that leads them to a hidden room—and a secret society. When they discover they're related to Sherlock Holmes and inherit his unsolved casebook, life becomes so much more exciting. The siblings set out to solve the cases their famous ancestor couldn't, starting with the mystery of a prized painting that vanished more than a hundred years ago. Can two smart twenty-first century kids succeed where Sherlock Holmes could not?

NW 1924: The Dark Frigate by Charles Hawes

17th Century England. In seventeenth century England, a terrible accident forces orphaned Philip Marsham to flee London in fear for his life. Bred to the sea, he signs on with the "Rose of Devon," a dark frigate bound for the quiet shores of Newfoundland. Philip's bold spirit and knowledge of the sea soon win him his captain's regard. But when the "Rose of Devon" is seized in midocean by a devious group of men plucked from a floating wreck, Philip is forced to accompany these "gentlemen of fortune" on their murderous expeditions. Like it or not, Philip Marsham is now a pirate—with only the hangman awaiting his return to England. With its bloody battles, brutal buccaneers, and bold, spirited hero, this rousing tale will enthrall young listeners in search of seafaring adventure.

NW 1943: Adam of the Road by Elizabeth Janet Gray

13th Century England. Eleven-year-old Adam loved to travel throughout thirteenth century England with his father, a wandering minstrel, and his dog, Nick. But when Nick is stolen and his father disappears, Adam suddenly finds himself alone. He searches the same roads he traveled with his father, meeting various people along the way. But will Adam ever find his father and dog and end his desperate search?

NW 1950: The Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli

14th Century England. Set in the fourteenth century, the classic story of one boy's personal heroism when he loses the use of his legs.

NW 1996: The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman

Medieval England. From the author of "Catherine, Called Birdy" comes another spellbinding novel set in medieval England. The girl known only as Brat has no family, no home, and no future until she meets Jane the Midwife and becomes her apprentice. As she helps the sharp-tempered Jane deliver babies, Brat—who renames herself Alyce—gains knowledge, confidence, and the courage to want something from life: "A full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world."

NW 2003: Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi

14th Century England. After being declared a “wolf’s head” by his manor’s corrupt steward for a crime he didn’t commit (meaning that anyone can kill him like a common animal--and collect a reward), this timid boy has to flee a tiny village that’s the only world he’s ever known. But before our protagonist escapes, Avi makes sure that we’re thoroughly briefed on the injustices of feudalism--the countless taxes cottars must pay, the constant violence, the inability of a flawed church to protect its parishioners, etc. Avi then folds in the book’s central mystery just as the boy is leaving: “Asta’s son,” as he’s always been known, learns from the village priest that his Christian name is Crispin, and that his parents’ origins--and fates--might be more perplexing than he ever imagined. Providing plenty of period detail (appropriately gratuitous for the age group) and plenty of chase-scene suspense, Avi tells a good story, develops a couple of fairly compelling characters, and even manages to teach a little history lesson. (Fortunately, kids won’t realize that they’re learning about England’s peasant revolt of 1381 until it’s far too late.) (Ages 10 to 14) --Paul Hughes

Elizabeth I: Red Rose of the House of Tudor, England, 1544 (The Royal Diaries) by Kathryn Lasky

Newbery Honor author Kathryn Lasky introduces readers to young Elizabeth I and the intrigue of her father’s court from 1544-1546.

The Royal Diaries: Victoria, May Blossom of Britannia, England 1829 by Anna Kirwan

Being a princess is not all glittery parties and lavish holidays by the sea. Well, actually, it is, but it’s not all fun. Young Princess Victoria is constantly surrounded by family and advisors, allowing her no privacy and very few opportunities to express herself until she purloins an old ledger book from one of Kensington Palace’s stables. She promptly begins recording her secrets, daily trials, and naughty witticisms (her uncle, King George IV, has big, plump hands, “the size of a plucked quail.”) in this very incongruous journal. The biggest secret of all, however, is one that is kept from our heroine. It is not until well into her two-year-long diary that Victoria pieces together her family tree to discover that she is next in line to the throne. This intriguing installment of the Royal Diaries series will inspire many readers to delve deeper into Queen Victoria’s life as the longest reigning queen of England. Author Anna Kirwan’s fictionalized account is entertaining and enlightening, packed with facts about royal customs in the early 19th century. Historical notes, a family tree, and photos provide more factual information for the curious reader.

Wales

Stories From Wales: Oxford Children’s Myths and Legends by Gwyn Jones

Stories from Wales is filled with spell-binding tales of love, loyalty, greed and jealousy come from the mountains and valleys of Wales. From Pwyll, the prince of Dyfed, to Arthur’s court, they tell of a world where peasants and kings live alongside the folk of the faery, and where reality and enchantment intertwine.

Castle by David Macaulay

The word itself conjures up mystery, romance, intrigue, and grandeur. What could be more perfect for an author/illustrator who has continually stripped away the mystique of architectural structures that have long fascinated modern man? With typical zest and wry sense of humor punctuating his drawings, David Macaulay traces the step-by-step planning and construction of both castle and town.

NW 1976: The Grey King by Susan Cooper

Fantasy, begins in 20th Century Wales. With the final battle between the Light and the Dark soon approaching, Will sets out on a quest to call for aid. Hidden within the Welsh hills is a magical harp that he must use to wake the Sleepers - six noble riders who have slept for centuries. But an illness has robbed Will of nearly all his knowledge of the Old Ones, and he is left only with a broken riddle to guide him in his task. As Will travels blindly through the hills, his journey will bring him face-to-face with the most powerful Lord of the Dark - the Grey King. The King holds the harp and Sleepers within his lands, and there has yet to be a force strong enough to tear them from his grasp.

The Mountain of Marvels: A Celtic Tale of Magic, Retold from the Mabinogion by Aaron Shepard

A thousand years ago, in the Celtic kingdoms of Wales, great lords gave great feasts for their fighting men and courtiers. In timbered halls, for days on end, heaps of meat and bread were washed down with gallons of beer and mead. And in between the meals, when bellies were stuffed and spirits high, the storyteller rose and spun his tales of times long past. He told of lords, bold and generous. He told of ladies, grand and glorious. He told of friends, brave and faithful. But of all he told about, no friend was more reliable than Manawydan, son of Llyr. No lady was more admirable than Rhiannon. And no lord was more honorable than Pwyll, King of Dyfed.

Scotland

HH, ER: Scotch Twins by Lucy F. Perkins

Jean and Jock Campbell are 12 year-old twins who live in the highlands of Scotland near the turn of the century. After helping out on their parents farm, cleaning the house, tending the rabbits, and observing the Sabbath, the twins befriend a new neighbor. Their adventures with their new friend involves poachers, game-keepers and the death of the Auld Laird.

HH, ER: Our Little Celtic Cousin by Evaleen Stein

The story of Ferdiad, a boy of Ireland in the time of High King Brian Boru, when the Danes were pillaging the Irish countryside. How his foster-father Angus becomes poet to the High King and how Ferdiad himself recovers a lost treasure. Gives a glimpse into the customs and social life of the Celts, with special emphasis on their artistic achievements, including the Book of Kells and the stories of Cuculain.

HH, MS: Scotland's Story by H. E. Marshall

A child's history of Scotland, from legendary days through the time when the kingdoms of Scotland and England were joined together. Relates in vigorous prose the thrilling exploits of the heroes and heroines

who defended Scotland from its English invaders. Includes the stories of Macbeth, William Wallace and Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots, the poet king and the beautiful lady of the garden, the Glen of Weeping and many others.

The Story of Scotland by Richard Brassey

Picture book. The story of Scotland from the Ice Age to the Vikings, the Picts and the Romans, to Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Flora Macdonald, Sir Walter Scott, Logie Baird, Keir Hardie, and many more famous Scots up to the present day. Each page is packed with colorful pictures and witty captions and speech bubbles, and a pithy text gives the facts and tells the story. The Story of Scotland won the Saltire Society/TES Award for Educational Publications and the Scottish Arts Council Children's Book Award.

Wee Gillis by Munro Leaf

A Caldecott Honor Book by the creators of the beloved Story of Ferdinand. Wee Gillis lives in Scotland. He is an orphan, and he spends half of each year with his mother's people in the lowlands, while the other half finds him in the highlands with his father's kin. Both sides of Gillis's family are eager for him to settle down and adopt their ways. In the lowlands, he is taught to herd cattle, learning how to call them to him in even the heaviest of evening fogs. In the rocky highlands, he stalks stags from outcrop to outcrop, holding his breath so as not to make a sound. Wee Gillis is a quick study, and he soon picks up what his elders can teach him. And yet he is unprepared when the day comes for him to decide, once and for all, whether it will be the lowlands or the highlands that he will call his home.

Stories From Scotland: Oxford Children's Myths and Legends by Barbara Ker Wilson

From the Highlands and islands, to the Border country, Stories from Scotland covers stories from all over Scotland. You'll find tales of Tam Lin the elfin knight, MacCodrum of the Seals and many more--all told with a thrilling sense of adventure and fun.

Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson

Classic adventure novel, set in the year 1751, centers around David Balfour, a young Scotsman orphaned by the death of his father. Betrayed by his uncle, the young hero is shanghaied and headed for bondage in the New World, until a swashbuckling highlander comes to his rescue. Stirring, suspenseful; considered by Stevenson his best fiction.

Ireland

Stories From Ireland -: Oxford Children's Myths and Legends by Ita Daly

This wonderful collection is drawn from a long tradition of story-telling--tales that have been retold and passed down from generation to generation. Read about how the children of Lir were turned into swans, what happens to anyone who dares to look into King Balor's evil eye, and about many more magical characters and heroic adventures.

Greener Grass by Caroline Pignat

In 1847, 15-year-old Kit is jailed for digging up potatoes on confiscated land to feed her starving family, and during the three weeks that she is incarcerated, she reflects on the past year in Ireland: the blight, famine, evictions, and deaths. Lord Fraser, an Englishman, wants to repossess the land where Kit's family lives for grazing, and his estate manager, Lynch, sets fires to drive people from their homes. Much as Kit hates working as a kitchen maid in the estate's Big House, her family needs the money. Then she loses her job, and as she watches her mother sell family treasures, including the Bible and the bed, her sorrow ("I never cried once for fear of never being able to stop") and raging hatred make her plot dire revenge. Complicating everything further is Kit's love for Lynch's son, who loves her back. But can he stand up to his brutal dad? True to Kit's voice, the plain, rhythmic language ("My home was gone. My heart was broken") is lyrical but never ornate. The tension in the story and in the well-developed characters is always rooted in daily detail, and it builds to the final question, which suggests a possible sequel: Will Kit make it onto the ship to Canada? Grades 7-10. --Hazel Rochman

Poland

NW 1929: The Trumpeter of Krakow by Eric P. Kelly

15th Century Poland. For well over thirty years, Eric P. Kelly's Newbery Award winner has brought the color and romance of ancient times to young readers. Today, "The Trumpeter of Krakow" is an absorbing and dramatic as when it was first published in 1928.

Bulgaria

NW 1935: Dobry by Monica Shannon

Early 20th Century Bulgaria. A Bulgarian peasant boy must convince his mother that he is destined to be a sculptor, not a farmer.

Greece

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

When the unconventional Durrell family can no longer endure the damp, gray English climate, they do what any sensible family would do: sell their house and relocate to the sunny Greek isle of Corfu. *My Family and Other Animals* was intended to embrace the natural history of the island but ended up as a delightful account of Durrell's family's experiences, from the many eccentric hangers-on to the ceaseless procession of puppies, toads, scorpions, geckoes, ladybugs, glowworms, octopuses, bats, and butterflies into their home.

Scandinavia

HH, ER: Stories of the Vikings by Mary Macgregor

This book gives a brief history of the early kings of Norway, starting with Harald Fairhair (c. 860) , who first brought dozens of separate Viking kingdoms under a single rule, to the conversion of Norway from a Pagan to a Christian kingdom, under Olaf Trygvesson (c. 1015). The explorations of Leif Erikson and his family are also covered.

HH, ER: Viking Tales by Jennie Hall

This book follows the story of Harald Fairhair from the time he is given his own thrall at the cutting of his first tooth, through his exploits as a Viking adventurer, to his crowning as King of Norway. Then population pressures at home and eagerness for adventure and booty from other lands combine to drive some of the bolder Vikings to set forth from their native land. Sailing ever westward across the Atlantic, they hop along the chain of islands that loosely connects Norway with America in search of home and adventure.

HH, ER: Our Little Viking Cousin by C. H. Johnston

This book tells the story of a Viking boy named Biarne who travels with Leif Erikson on his voyage to Vinland in North America around the year 1000. He lives the life of a Viking adventurer, building a boat, crossing the ocean and helping to establish a settlement on in the new land. Eventually the small tribe of Vikings is attacked by natives, which they call Skrellings, and have to return to their base settlement at Greenland, but not without many treasures from the new land.

HH, ER: Stories of Siegfried by Mary Macgregor

Siegfried is the central character in this legend, skillfully adapted from the Nibelung, an old German poem, full of strange adventures of tiny dwarves and stalwart mortals. In this retelling of the ancient legend, Siegfried wins the accursed Rhineland treasure, takes Kriemhild as bride, and comes to an untimely end, passing the curse of the Rheingold on to his enemies.

HH, ER: Stories of Beowulf by H. E. Marshall

This volume retells the famous Anglo-Saxon saga in the manner of a folktale, with the heroic qualities emphasized. It relates how Beowulf, the hero of the Saxons, came to Daneland and how he overcame the ogre Grendel and the water witch. It closes with the story of how the fire dragon warred with the Goth folk and how Beowulf fought his last fight.

HH, MS: Eric the Red by George Upton

This book records the stories of Eric the Red and his son Lief Ericson, the Norsemen credited with discovering North America in the 11th century. The adventures of other Norsemen, such as Thorwald, Thorfinn, and Finnboge, whose stories are related in the Nordic sagas are also told, along with other Pre-Columbian Nordic explorers.

HH, MS: Rolf and the Viking's Bow by Allen French

Relates the exploits of a Viking boy: how he becomes an outlaw, and a thrall, and at long last gains his freedom and avenges the unlawful slaying of his father. Through his trials Rolf is challenged to grow in manliness, developing courage, self-control, patriotism, and perseverance, and in the end rising above the feud that has consumed him for so long.

HH, MS: The Sampo by James Baldwin

Far away in the Frozen Land, a long time ago, a master wizard forged the wondrous Sampo, or mill of fortune, which ground out all sorts of treasures and gave wealth and power to its owner. This story, retold in from the Finnish Kalevala, tells of the making of this mill and the adventures of the heroes who sought to gain possession of it.

HH, MS: The Story of Siegfried by James Baldwin

Legends of the Nibelungen hero, Siegfried, full of the mystery, awe, and poetry of the northern lands. They tell of how Siegfried forged the wondrous sword, Balmung, of his riding through flaming fire to awaken the maiden, Brunhild, and of the many other strange and daring deeds which he wrought. Many Norse myths are interwoven in the tale. The best rendition for children of the Siegfried legends, based on the Eddas, the Volsung Saga, and the Nibelungen-lied.

HH, MS: The Nibelungs by George Upton

The Nibelungs is the most famous Epic in Norse mythology and is said to be based on the Royal family of Burgundy. The story begins when the wealth of the Burgundians falls into the hands of Siegfried. After helping King Gunther woo Brunhild, Siegfried marries Kriemhild, Gunther's sister. Ultimately, a row between the Queens leads to the death of both Siegfried and Kriemhild, and the loss of the treasure.

HH, MS: Undine by George Upton

This famous German romance is based on 18th century story of a water spirit who marries a human in order become mortal. It is full of mischief, treachery, and drama. It was made into a very popular Opera by Hoffman and was emblematic of the 19th century rebirth of German romantic culture.

HH, MS: In the Days of Giants by Abbie F. Brown

The great Norse epics have been retold for grammar school age children in this delightful collection. The Norse creation myths, as well as legends of the Norse Gods, Odin, Loki, and Thor are told in a manner attractive to young readers.

HH, MS: Children of Odin by Padraic Colum

This book features Norse myths and ancient tales of the Gods of Asgard, told by a masterful storyteller. Subjects include Loki, the mischief-maker; Freya, goddess of love and beauty; Thor, god of war and thunder; Baldur, god of joy and peace; Odin, king of the Gods, and Frigga his Queen. The stories end with a recounting of the tale of Siegfried and the Nibelungs.

HH, MS: Heroes of Asgard by A. and E. Keary

These Norse tales are based on the Icelandic sagas, and feature stories of Odin, Thor, Freya and the other the gods of Aesir. It tells of the Gods dealings with Loki, a mischievous imp, who brings tragedy to Asgard by killing Baldur, god of peace and joy.

HH, MS: Norse Stories from the Eddas by H. W. Mabie

The Eddas were Icelandic sagas written over 900 years ago, that tell of the great doings of the Norse Gods. They include the Norse creation story, the foundation of the city of Asgard, and many strange and wonderful stories involving Odin, Loci, Thor, Freya, Baldr, and many of the other Norse Gods.

HH, YA: Historical Tales - Scandinavian by Charles Morris

This collection of stories from Norway and Sweden range from earliest stories of Ragnar Lodbrok, the notorious pirate who raided Saxon Britain, to the division of Norway and Sweden in the early twentieth centuries. It includes tales of the famous Viking kings of Norway, Harold Fairhair, Haakon the Good, and St. Olaf, and Norse heroes of the Thirty Years War, and Great Northern War, and almost all of the most romantic tales of Scandinavia.

Scandinavian Folk & Fairy Tales: Tales From Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland & Iceland by Claire Booss

A collection of folk literature from five countries, with illustrations by native artists.

D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

The Norse myths are some of the greatest stories of all time. Weird monsters, thoroughly human gods, elves and sprites and gnomes, with grim giants nursing ancient grudges lurking behind—the mysterious and entrancing world of Norse myth comes alive in these pages thanks to the spellbinding storytelling and spectacular pictures of the incomparable d'Aulaire. In this classic book, the art of the Caldecott Award—winning authors of d'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths, a longtime favorite of children and parent, reaches one of its pinnacles. It offers a way into a world of fantasy and struggle and charm that has served as inspiration for Marvel Comics and the Lord of the Rings.

Norway

Master Maid: A Tale of Norway by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. Leif is a likeable fellow, but he never wants to listen to anyone, and he always has to do things his own way. So when his father warns him not to go work for the troll, that's just what he does! The troll seems nice enough, but the jobs he gives Leif are trickier than they seem. Leif can only succeed with the advice of a beautiful and mysterious maiden he discovers in the troll's kitchen. But will he be wise enough to take her advice? And what will they do when the troll figures out he's been fooled? A lively Norwegian folktale that goes to show that women know best!

Children of the Northlights by Ingri d'Aulaire

Inspired directly by a remarkable journey the d'Aulaires took to northern Europe and their time spent among the Sami, *Children of the Northlights* is a brightly illustrated portrait and celebration of the Sami people, culture, and snow-covered landscapes of the frozen north, from two of the twentieth century's greatest storytellers.

Sweden

Children of the Soil: A Story of Scandinavia by Nora Burglon

A beautiful, almost lyrical old story of life in Sweden in the later 18th century. The main characters are children, so we see Scandinavian life and customs through their eyes. A major theme is the joy and difficulty of hard work and creativity.

Kristina: The Girl King, Sweden, 1638 by Carolyn Meyer

Carolyn Meyer, author of best-selling *ROYAL DIARIES* Isabel and Anastasia, now brings to the series this compelling story of Kristina, The Girl King, from 17th-century Sweden. Upon discovering that their newborn infant was, in fact, female and not male as first thought, Queen Marie Eleonore wailed inconsolably and King Gustavus Adolphus declared, nevertheless, that the child be raised as a prince. At age six, upon the death of her father, the child Kristina, was proclaimed King of Sweden, with regents assigned to council until she assumes the throne at age eighteen. And indeed, her life followed her father's plan. We meet Kristina when she's almost twelve years old and eschewing feminine practices but reveling in the study of military tactics.

Denmark

NW 1990: Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

1943 Denmark. As the German troops begin their campaign to "relocate" all the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen's family takes in Annemarie's best friend, Ellen Rosen, and conceals her as part of the family. Through the eyes of ten-year-old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war.

Finland

The Princess Mouse: A Tale of Finland by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. In Mikko's family, young men find their sweethearts by cutting down a tree and following where it points. As his father says, "That's how we've done it, and that's how we always will." Though Mikko's brother makes his tree fall how he wants, Mikko's tree seems to have ideas of its own. So, what

is Mikko to do when it sends him into the forest and all he finds there is a mouse? And what if the mouse offers gladly to be his sweetheart, and even passes the test that is set by Mikko's father?

The Maiden of Northland: A Hero Tale of Finland by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. Not so long ago, in the tiny, isolated villages of Finland, where prolonged summer days gave way to endless winter nights, people would pass the time by singing the many adventures of their favorite heroes: the mighty, magical men and women of ancient days. They sang of old Vainamoinen, greatest of sages and magicians, who helped create the world but never could find a woman to wed him. They sang of his friend and ally Ilmarinen, first among craftsmen, the blacksmith who forged the dome of the heavens. They sang of Louhi, the ancient lady of Northland, whose crafty wit and magical powers made her a worthy opponent for Vainamoinen himself. And they sang of Aila, Louhi's lovely daughter, who captured the hopes of the two old friends and drew them as rivals to the shores of Northland. The songs endure, the heroes live, in this poetic retelling of Finland's national epic, the Kalevala.

The Songs of Power: A Finnish Tale of Magic, Retold from the Kalevala by Aaron Shepard

Not so long ago, in the tiny, isolated villages of Finland, where prolonged summer days gave way to endless winter nights, people would pass the time by singing the many adventures of their favorite heroes: the mighty, magical men and women of ancient days. They sang of old Vainamoinen, greatest of sages and magicians, who helped create the world but never could find a woman to wed him. They sang of his friend and ally Ilmarinen, first among craftsmen, the blacksmith who forged the dome of the heavens. They sang of Louhi, the ancient lady of Northland, whose crafty wit and magical powers made her a worthy opponent for Vainamoinen himself. And they sang of Aila, Louhi's lovely daughter, who captured the hopes of the two old friends and drew them as rivals to the shores of Northland. And while these songs could still be heard, there came along a rural doctor, a scholar, who gathered and wove them together in a book he called the Kalevala. And so he created for Finns a national epic, and for the rest of the world, a work of wonder.

Tales from a Finnish Tupa by James Cloyd Bowman

First published in 1936, this book presents tales of magic like "The Mouse Bride" and "Antti and the Wizard's Prophecy," droll stories such as "The Pig-Headed Wife," and fables from the collections of Eero Salmelainen and Iivo Härkönen, sharing Finnish wisdom on topics from the end of the world to how the Rabbit earned his self-respect. Featuring hand-rendered illustrations in full color, Tales from a Finnish Tupa is a folklore gem for all ages.

Nordic Hero Tales from the Kalevala by James Baldwin

A collection of awe-inspiring stories from Finnish mythology, this treasury was assembled by educator James Baldwin, who specialized in adapting ancient narratives into captivating prose. Drawn from the oral traditions of the Finnish national epic, the Kalevala, these 38 entrancing tales are appropriate for all ages

YA: The Kalevala: Tales of Magic and Adventure by Kirsti Mäkinen

Netherlands

NW 1955: The Wheel on the School by Meindert DeJong

Mid-20th Century Netherlands. Why do the storks no longer come to the little Dutch fishing village of Shora to nest? It was Lina, one of the six schoolchildren who first asked the question, and she set the others to wondering. And sometimes when you begin to wonder, you begin to make things happen. So the children set out to bring the storks back to Shora. The force of their vision put the whole village to work until at last the dream began to come true.

Germany

NW 2008: Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz

13th Century Germany. Maidens, monks, and millers' sons — in these pages, readers will meet them all. There's Hugo, the lord's nephew, forced to prove his manhood by hunting a wild boar; sharp-tongued Nelly, who supports her family by selling live eels; and the peasant's daughter, Mogg, who gets a clever lesson in how to save a cow from a greedy landlord. There's also mud-slinging Barbary (and her noble victim); Jack, the compassionate half-wit; Alice, the singing shepherdess; and many more. With a deep appreciation for the period and a grand affection for both characters and audience, Laura Amy Schlitz creates twenty-two riveting portraits and linguistic gems equally suited to silent reading or performance.

Spain

HH, ER: Spain by Edith A. Browne

This book depicts the geography, culture, and society of Spain, rather than attempting to cover Spanish history in a thorough manner. It includes chapters on Spanish family life, religion, holidays, the country, climate, landmarks and cities of Spain, important Spanish products and industries, and Spanish customs and pastimes.

HH, ER: Stories of Don Quixote by James Baldwin

This adapted version of Cervantes' classic Don Quixote was rewritten to make it accessible to grammar school children. The tone and humor of the original is well preserved. Cervantes' original is famous for its portrayal of quirky characters, and Baldwin's book does an excellent job of faithfully representing these fascinating townsfellows.

HH, MS: History of Spain by Frederick Ober

This short history of Spain was written by an author who wrote a series of biographies featuring the Spanish Explorers of America. It covers all the important events of Spanish history briefly from the

age of the Phoenician and Carthaginian Traders to the Spanish-American War of 1898. It provides an engaging introduction to Spanish history for the intermediate reader.

HH, MS: Child's History of Spain by John Bonner

This concise and well illustrated history of Spain begins with stories from Visigoth Spain, and ends in the late 19th century, immediately before the Spanish-American war. It covers the history of the Moors in Spain and the Reconquista thoroughly, and fairly. Much attention is paid to the exploits of Columbus and Cortes, but most other Spanish explorers are not discussed in detail. The final portion of the book is dedicated to the decline of Spain under the Hapsburg and Bourbon monarchs.

HH, MS: Greatest Nations - Spain by C. F. Horne

This concise history of Spain is lavishly illustrated and tells the story of the rise of the Spanish nation from the age of the Romans and Visigoths through the Carlist Wars, and the complicated political machinations of the 19th century. The most outstanding feature of this book is its generous and spectacular illustrations.

HH, MS: Story of the Cid by C. D. Wilson

The Legend of the Cid was based on a real character in medieval Spain, who has been honored by all Spaniards as a model of chivalry. This delightful rendition tells the complete tale of the Cid, a noble Christian knight who served a faithless king. Driven into exile by jealous courtiers, he conquered much of Moslem Spain, including the great city of Valencia, and won admiration from both his Christian and Moslem subjects by his bravery and fair dealing.

HH, YA: Isabella of Castile by O. O. Howard

Much of this story of the life of Isabella and Ferdinand of Spain is dedicated to military conflicts and civil wars that consumed much of the time and resources of the Spanish monarchs. As soon as Isabel came to the throne, the prince of Portugal challenged her claim, nobles tried to assert their independence, and the Moors threatened to revolt. Only through great perseverance and courage was Isabella able to quell rebellion and bring all of Spain under a single crown.

HH, YA: Romance of Spanish History by John S. C. Abbott

This detailed and entertaining book gives an excellent overview of much of Spanish history, including characters sketches of many of the most famous people in the history of Spain. It covers the earliest periods of history, including the Roman conquest, and continues until the mid nineteenth century.

HH, YA: Irving's Alhambra by W. Irving

This version of Irving's Alhambra has been abridged and anointed for young people, but it still retains the charm as the original. Part travel log, part history, part legend, part fairy tale, the book records a year that Irving spent in Spain, at the great monument of Moslem Spain, the Alhambra at Granada.

HH, YA: The War with Spain by Charles Morris

Detailed, and well written history of the Spanish American War, authored shortly after the close of hostilities. Strongly presents the American case for the war, and provides much background in terms of the ongoing rebellions against the Spanish governments in Cuba and the Philippines which preceded the American invasion. Of particular interest are reports of Spanish atrocities against the native population of Cuba, which helped provoke an American declaration of War on Spain.

HH, YA: Historical Tales - Spanish by Charles Morris

This collection of romantic stories from Spain starts with the good King Wamba, one of the last Visigoth kings. It follows the conquest of Spain by the Moors, the battle of Tours, and features heroes of the middle ages such Roderic, El Cid, and Ponce De Leon. It then follows the unified nation of Spain under Isabel and Ferdinand to the Spanish American War. Of particular interest are many stories of Moslem Spain and the fall of Granada.

NW 1965: Shadow of a Bull by Maia Wojciechowska

20th Century Spain. Manolo was only three when his father, the great bullfighter Juan Olivar, died. But Juan is never far from Manolo's consciousness -- how could he be, with the entire town of Arcangel waiting for the day Manolo will fulfill his father's legacy? But Manolo has a secret he dares to share with no one -- he is a coward, without *afición*, the love of the sport that enables a bullfighter to rise above his fear and face a raging bull. As the day when he must enter the ring approaches, Manolo finds himself questioning which requires more courage: to follow in his father's legendary footsteps or to pursue his own destiny?

NW 1966: I, Juan de Pareja by Elizabeth Borton de Trevino

17th Century Spain. When the great Velázquez was painting his masterpieces at the Spanish court in the seventeenth century, his colors were expertly mixed and his canvases carefully prepared by his slave, Juan de Pareja. In a vibrant novel which depicts both the beauty and the cruelty of the time and place, Elizabeth Borton de Treviño tells the story of Juan, who was born a slave and died an accomplished and respected artist.

The Royal Diaries: Isabel by Carolyn Meyer

While waiting anxiously for others to choose a husband for her, Isabella, the future Queen of Spain, keeps a diary account of her life as a member of the royal family.

Portugal

HH, ER: Portugal by Edith A. Browne

This geographical reader is set in the early 20th century and gives a romantic portrait of country and city life in Portugal before ancient customs and ways of life gave way to modernism. A short history of Portugal that emphasizes its contributions to exploration is given, but most of the book discusses the art, culture, legends, folktales, towns, ports, and customs of Portugal.

Italy

VIDEO: Discovery Atlas

Netflix. Italy Revealed.

France

The Lacemaker and the Princess by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Eleven-year-old Isabelle is a lacemaker in the town of Versailles. One day as she delivers lace to the palace, she is almost trampled by a crowd of courtiers -- only to be rescued by Marie Antoinette. Before Isabelle can believe it, she has a new job -- companion to the queen's daughter. Isabelle is given a fashionable name, fashionable dresses -- a new identity. At home she plies her needle under her grandmother's disapproving eye. At the palace she is playmate to a princess. Thrown into a world of luxury, Isabelle is living a fairy-tale life. But this facade begins to crumble when rumors of starvation in the countryside lead to whispers of revolution. How can Isabelle reconcile the ugly things she hears in the town with the kind family she knows in the palace? And which side is she truly on? Inspired by an actual friendship between the French princess and a commoner who became her companion, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley offers a vivid portrait of life inside the palace of Versailles -- and a touching tale of two friends divided by class and the hunger for equality and freedom that fueled the French Revolution.

The Royal Diaries: Marie Antoinette: Princess of Versailles, Austria-France, 1769 by Kathryn Lasky

Maria Antonia of Vienna has her whole life mapped out ahead of her. She is to marry Dauphin Louis Auguste, eldest grandson of King Louis XV. As his wife, she will be called Marie Antoinette, and will be the highest princess of France. Upon the death of the King, she will become Queen Marie Antoinette. But she dreads both new roles. I am just thirteen...I am not yet ready to be a dauphine, let alone Queen, she writes.

Mary, Queen of Scots: Queen Without a Country, France 1553 (The Royal Diaries) by Kathryn Lasky

Readers take a step back in time to 16th-century France in this year-long diary of adolescent Mary, Queen of Scots, who has fled from homeland to the Court of her betrothed in France. Mary is only nine months old when she is crowned Queen of Scotland succeeding her father King James V. Because of political conflicts, she is forced to be separated from her mother and her country from the age of five. For the benefit of forging an alliance with France, the youngster is betrothed to Francis, the son of King Henry II of France and his wife, the vicious and jealous Queen Catherine de Medici. Mary is sent to France to live in their care until she is old enough for the marriage to take place. It is at their home, the beautiful Chateau St. Germaine, that we first meet the irresistibly charming Mary at 11 years old. Keenly intelligent, she excels academically, and shows a talent for dance, music and poetry. She's an expert horsewoman, skilled at archery and hawking.

Austria

Elisabeth of Austria: The Princess Bride (The Royal Diaries) by Barry Denenberg

Author Barry Denenberg introduces us to a nineteenth-century Bavarian princess named Elisabeth who at age fifteen is engaged to the emperor of Austria and is swept into an unfamiliar world.

Author Barry Denenberg brings us into the whirlwind that is the life of Princess Elisabeth of Austria. A free and impetuous spirit, Elisabeth was chosen at the tender age of fifteen (over her older sister) to be the wife of Franz Joseph, Emperor of Austria. From that moment on, she is thrown into an intimidating world of restrictions and tremendous responsibilities. Feeling lonely and alienated, Elisabeth is forced to rely upon her own personal strength, which is what eventually leads her down the aisle and into an uncertain future.

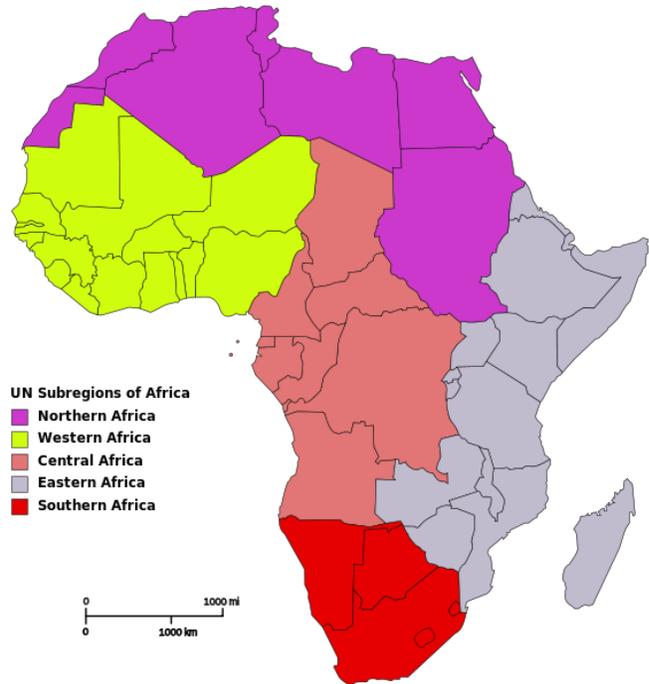
●●●●●●●● AFRICA

VIDEO: BBC America: Africa

Amazon Instant Video. In this blockbuster, the BBC's Natural History Unit reveals Africa as you've never seen it before. This is a journey through five diverse regions of an amazing continent, taking you seamlessly from the wild terrain of extraordinary landscapes to intimate encounters with its mesmerizing creatures.

VIDEO: BBC Earth: Wild Africa

Amazon Instant Video. Wild Africa takes you on a journey across the continent of Africa, from the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro down to the Danakil Depression, and countless destinations in between. With a combination of masterful aerial photography and beautifully captured wild-life footage, this is Africa as you have never seen it before.



Misoso: Once Upon a Time Tales from Africa by Verna Aardema

Illustrated in full color. From Angola to Zanzibar, this treasury is as varied and bountiful as Africa itself! Master storyteller Verna Aardema retells 12 tales of justice and revenge, greed and generosity, sly trickery, and off-the-wall silliness with her trademark humor and flair. Nearly 50 illustrations vibrantly reflect the spirit of these read-aloud delights, while a map of Africa, story source information, and a personal note from the author make this a rich volume for folk-tale lovers of all ages.

A Glorious Age in Africa: The Story of 3 Great African Empires by Daniel Chu

Ghana, Mali & Songhay: The Story of Three Great Empires.

Our Empire Story by H. E. Marshall

MainLesson.com. Vivid and picturesque account of the principal events in the building of the British Empire. Traces the development of the British colonies from days of discovery and exploration through settlement and establishment of government. Includes stories of the five chief portions of the Empire: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and India.

NW 1951: Amos Fortune, Free Man by Elizabeth Yates

18th Century Africa. Amos Fortune was born the son of an African king. In 1725, when he was 15 years old, he was captured by slave traders, brought to America and sold at auction. For 45 years, Amos worked as a slave and dreamed of freedom. At 60, he began to see those dreams come true.

Making It Home: Real-Life Stories from Children Forced to Flee by Beverly Naidoo

In this inspiring collection, children living all over the world speak about being forced to flee their homes as refugees. With original, autobiographical accounts, *Making It Home* gives a poignant voice to the millions of young people whose lives have been disrupted by war but who have escaped. With maps, brief histories of each country, and an eight-page photo insert, this book helps young people understand the world and the children who share the dream of freedom.

North Africa

Tut, Tut #6 (Time Warp Trio) by Jon Scieszka

A delightful children's story about Ancient Egypt and time travel. In the tradition of all books by Scieszka and Smith, although it is perfect for ages 6-10, adults will get a smile too from the offbeat humor and weird predicaments in which the Time Warp Trio find themselves.

A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story by Linda Sue Park

Nya goes to the pond to fetch water for her family. She walks eight hours every day. Salva walks away from his war-torn village. He is a "lost boy" refugee, destined to cover Africa on foot, searching for his family and safety. Two young people . . . two stories. One country: Sudan. This mesmerizing dual narrative follows two threads—one unfolding in 2008 and one in 1985—with one hopeful message: that even in a troubled country, determined survivors may find the future they are hoping for.

Star of Light by Patricia M. St. John

Hamid rubbed the light from his eyes and looked again. He was not dreaming. It was his stepfather! The man watched Kinza as a snake might watch a baby rabbit at play, waiting for the moment to strike. And for one breathless moment Hamid was sure that he would reach out and snatch her away. Hamid does not want his little blind sister, Kinza, to be sold to a beggar by their stepfather, so he decides to rescue her. Together they escape from their mountain village to a town where there may be a new home for Kinza. But this is only the start of their adventures. Will Kinza be safe? What will happen to Hamid who dares not go back home? Set in North Africa, readers will be delighted by yet another of Patricia St. John's exciting, freshly edited novels.

The Other Side of Truth by Beverley Naidoo

When Nigeria's corrupt military government kills their mother, twelve-year-old Sade and her brother Femi think their lives are over. Out of fear for their safety, their father, an outspoken journalist, decides to smuggle the children out of Nigeria and into London, where their uncle lives. But when they get to the cold and massive city, they find themselves lost and alone, with no one to trust and no idea when -- or if -- they will ever see their father again. *The Other Side of Truth* is a gripping adventure story about courage, family, and the power of truth.

NW 1949: King of the Wind by Marguerite Henry

Early 20th Century Arabia, Europe. He was named "Sham" for the sun, this golden-red stallion born in the Sultan of Morocco's stone stables. Upon his heel was a small white spot, the symbol of speed. But on his chest was the symbol of misfortune. Although he was swift as the desert winds, Sham's pedigree

would be scorned all his life by cruel masters and owners. This is the classic story of Sham and his friend, the stable boy Agba. Their adventures take them from the sands of the Sahara, to the royal courts of France, and finally to the green pastures and stately homes of England. For Sham was the renowned Godolphin Arabian, whose blood flows through the veins of almost every superior thoroughbred.

YA: Letters from Egypt to Plain Folks at Home by Mary L. Whateley

Mary Whately's letters offer a fascinating insight into life in Egypt in 1879, and will prove to be an invaluable addition to the bookshelf of anyone with an interest in the people, customs, culture and climate of Egypt in this period.

Eastern Africa

VIDEO: BBC Earth: Madagascar

Welcome to an island full of unique animals not found anywhere else in the world. Lying just off the coast of Africa, Madagascar is a land of misty mountains, tropical rainforests and weird spiny desert scrubs. It is one of the few places left on Earth where there are still wildlife mysteries waiting to be discovered.

Rhinos for Lunch and Elephants for Supper! by Tololwa M. Mollel

Picture book. A humorous and ironic folk tale from the Maasai of East Africa in which only the frog (a most unlikely heroine) is courageous enough to take on a bully.

Listening for Lions by Gloria Whelan

Historical fiction with a wicked twist. *Listening for Lions* is a breathtaking story of tragedy, deception, and triumph against all odds. National Book Award-winning author Gloria Whelan sets this richly historical coming-of-age adventure in British East Africa in the year 1918. This irresistible novel entangles an orphaned girl in a deceit-filled plot. Young Rachel Sheridan is made to leave her beloved Africa for England, where she must pose as the deceased daughter of a nefarious couple in an effort to gain them an enormous inheritance. Her irrepressible spirit and extraordinary wit turn her from victim to heroine in a surprising and empowering tale of a remarkable young woman.

YA: The Man Eaters of Tsavo: And Other East African Adventures by John Henry Patterson

In 1898, the British East Africa Company commissioned Col. John H. Patterson to oversee the construction of a railway bridge over the Tsavo River in present-day Kenya. Almost immediately after his arrival, lion attacks started to take place on the workers, with the lions dragging men out of their tents at night and feeding on their victims. Despite taking various measures to curb the attacks, they escalated dramatically, and eventually the bridge construction stopped due to a mass exodus of the workers. The superstitious workers became increasingly hostile and many of them were certain that the lions were evil spirits who came to punish the bridge builders. With his reputation, livelihood and personal safety at stake, Patterson realized that he had to deal with the crisis in the only way he knew how - hunt the man-eaters down and kill them.

Central Africa

HH, ER: The Story of Livingstone by Vautier Golding

This biography of Livingstone is a concise and easily read story of the remarkable life of the great African missionary and explorer, David Livingstone. He was born into a humble family in Scotland, but at an early age decided to work as a missionary. He spent his entire life in central Africa serving the natives, working against slavery and demonstrating the best aspects of civilization.

HH, ER: The Story of H. M. Stanley by Vautier Golding

H.M. Stanley was a journalist working as a foreign correspondent when he set off for the interior of Africa to find Livingstone. He then continued Livingstone's work of exploration, eventually leading the first European party to navigate the Congo River. Though Stanley admired Livingstone greatly, his temperament and purposes were entirely dissimilar to his patient and selfless predecessor.

HH, MS: With Stanley on the Congo by M. Douglas

H.M. Stanley was the first European to transverse the African continent by way of the Congo river. After his return to England, he was recruited by the King of Belgium to found settlements and set up trading stations. This book begins when Stanley returns to the Congo and follows his adventures during the actual colonization of the region, ending with his dramatic rescue of Pasha Emin.

HH, MS: Stories of the Gorilla Country by Paul du Chaillu

This is the first of a series of children's books by an early explorer of equatorial Africa. The author set off alone as a young man to explore the interior of Africa, hunt big game, and investigate some of the stories he had heard about the natives. This account of his travel is packed with hair-raising adventures and exciting stories about encounters with African wildlife and native villagers.

HH, MS: Wild Life Under the Equator by Paul du Chaillu

This is the second of a series of children's books by an early explorer of equatorial Africa. In this volume, du Chaillu's hair-raising adventures with wild animals and unruly natives continue apace, but the author spends several chapters discussing particularly interesting or curious animals native to equatorial Africa, including monkeys, leopards, birds, and many types of insects..

HH, MS: Lost in the Jungle by Paul du Chaillu

This is the third of a series of children's books by an early explorer of equatorial Africa. The first two books were full of exciting stories about close encounters with gorillas, snakes and crocodiles and various other incidents, but did not give a chronological account of the author's journeys. This book, together with book four, present a comprehensive review of his first major expedition into the eastern jungle of Gabon and the Congo region.

HH, MS: My Apingi Kingdom by Paul du Chaillu

This is the fourth in a series of children's books by an early explorer of equatorial Africa. At the end of book three, the author has traveled hundreds of miles into the interior of Africa and has become "king"

of an Apingi village. He continues his explorations and adventures until he runs so low on supplies he is obliged to return to the coast. The second part of the book recounts his voyage to Senegal and explorations of the Sahara.

HH, MS: Country of the Dwarfs by Paul du Chaillu

This is the fifth and final book in du Chaillu's African exploration series. The author returns to Africa after spending three years in the white man's country preparing for a second major expedition, during which he intends to cross the entire continent. This ambitious endeavor is beset by difficulties, and he is finally forced to abandon the mission. This book, possibly the most exciting of the five and certainly the most frightening, recounts his entire ill-fated second expedition.

David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer by Janet Bengé

The lion's jaws gripped David Livingstone's arm. Razor-sharp teeth pierced his flesh as the lion savagely shook David in the air like a rag doll. A gunshot rang out. "God help us," David moaned, as the lion dropped him and turned to charge David's friend Mebalwe. With the heart of an explorer and the passion of an evangelist, David Livingstone mapped vast, unexplored areas of Africa, sharing the gospel with whomever he encountered. His stamina, perseverance, and dogged determination created the legacy of a trailblazing explorer with an undying hunger to make Christ known wherever his steps led him. David Livingstone's captivating adventures and tireless zeal continue to inspire countless men and women to bring the gospel message of God's love to those souls who have never heard.

The Story of David Livingstone (Yesterday's Classics) by Vautier Golding

A clear, simple account of Livingstone's pioneer work in Africa as explorer, medical missionary, and suppressor of the slave trade. Describes the horrors of the slave trade and Livingstone's efforts to thwart the slave traders in Africa and to bring awareness of the dire situation to the people in England and around the world. Emphasizes his indomitable courage and persistence in the face of countless difficulties to achieve his lifelong goal of doing as much good as he could for those most in need of it.

The Magic Flyswatter: A Superhero Tale of Africa, Retold from the Mwindo Epic by Aaron Shepard

The storyteller stands beside the fire, swaying, dancing, miming, singing, reciting. With one hand he shakes a gourd rattle, with the other he swings a conga -- a flyswatter made with a buffalo tail on a wooden handle. Anklet bells tinkle as he moves. Three young men beat a wooden drum with sticks. Listening to him is a crowd of men, women, and children. They sing along at a song's refrain, they repeat whole lines of the story when he pauses to see if they're paying attention. They encourage him with little shouts, whoops, claps. Food and drink are passed around. In a mountain rainforest of the Congo, a Nyanga village hears once more the tale of its favorite hero -- Mwindo, the one born walking, the one born talking.

Nzingha: Warrior Queen of Matamba, Angola, Africa, 1595 by Patricia C. McKissack

Presents the diary of thirteen-year-old Nzingha, a sixteenth-century West African princess who loves to hunt and hopes to lead her kingdom one day against the invasion of the Portuguese slave traders.

Western Africa

HH, ER: West African Folk-Tales by William H. Barker

This is a delightful collection of stories and fables from West Africa, collected by a missionary. Many stories feature the Spider-man Anansi, a clever but devious character who usually comes to a bad end. Most of the stories or fables have a clever moral, or tell how some aspect of the natural world came to be.

HH, YA: Land of the Golden Trade by John Lang

This book covers the exploration of Africa from the earliest voyages of the ancient Phoenicians to about 1900. Its primary focus is the Ivory coast, and many of the stories are about the explorers, plunderers, traders, slavers, and pirates who frequented Western Africa. There were few permanent European settlements in the area because of the difficult climate, so the historical stories are episodic rather than comprehensive. The history of the slave trade of particular interest.

Master Man: A Tall Tale of Nigeria by Aaron Shepard

Picture book. Shadusa is strong. In fact, he figures he's the strongest man in the world. He tells his wife, Shettu, "From now on, just call me Master Man." But Shettu says, "Quit your foolish boasting. No matter how strong you are, there will always be someone stronger. And watch out, or someday you may meet him." When Shadusa learns of someone else calling himself "Master Man," he goes out to set the man straight. But the trouble he gets into is far worse than he or even his wife could imagine. Read this rollicking tall tale from West Africa to find out who's the real Master Man.

YA: Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Things Fall Apart tells two intertwining stories, both centering on Okonkwo, a "strong man" of an Ibo village in Nigeria. The first, a powerful fable of the immemorial conflict between the individual and society, traces Okonkwo's fall from grace with the tribal world. The second, as modern as the first is ancient, concerns the clash of cultures and the destruction of Okonkwo's world with the arrival of aggressive European missionaries. These perfectly harmonized twin dramas are informed by an awareness capable of encompassing at once the life of nature, human history, and the mysterious compulsions of the soul.

YA: The Dark Child by Camara Laye

The Dark Child is a distinct and graceful memoir of Camara Laye's youth in the village of Koroussa, French Guinea. Long regarded Africa's preeminent Francophone novelist, Laye (1928-80) herein marvels over his mother's supernatural powers, his father's distinction as the village goldsmith, and his own passage into manhood, which is marked by animistic beliefs and bloody rituals of primeval origin. Eventually, he must choose between this unique place and the academic success that lures him to distant cities. More than autobiography of one boy, this is the universal story of sacred traditions struggling against the encroachment of a modern world. A passionate and deeply affecting record, The Dark Child is a classic of African literature.

YA: So Long a Letter by Mariama Ba

So Long a Letter has been recognized as one of Africa's 100 Best Books of the 20th Century. The brief narrative, written as an extended letter, is a sequence of reminiscences—some wistful, some bitter—recounted by recently widowed Senegalese schoolteacher Ramatoulaye Fall. Addressed to a lifelong friend, Aissatou, it is a record of Ramatoulaye's emotional struggle for survival after her husband betrayed their marriage by taking a second wife. This semi-autobiographical account is a perceptive testimony to the plight of educated and articulate Muslim women. Angered by the traditions that allow polygyny, they inhabit a social milieu dominated by attitudes and values that deny them status equal to men. Ramatoulaye hopes for a world where the best of old customs and new freedom can be combined. Considered a classic of contemporary African women's literature, So Long a Letter is a must-read for anyone interested in African literature and the passage from colonialism to modernism in a Muslim country.

YA: Scarlet Song by Mariama Ba

Mireille, daughter of a French Diplomat, Ousmane, son of a poor Muslim family in Senegal: Two childhood sweethearts forced to share their love in secret. Their marriage shocks and dismays both sets of parents, but it soon becomes clear that their youthful optimism and love is a poor defense against the pressures of society. As Ousmane is lured back to his roots, Mireille is left humiliated, isolated and alone. The tyranny of tradition and chauvinism is exposed in this novel from Senegal as two childhood sweethearts are forced to share their love in secret.

Southern Africa

VIDEO: Kalahari Meerkats

Netflix. This documentary takes viewers on an exciting journey into Botswana's Kalahari desert to examine the adventures, squabbles, struggles, drama and amazing resilience of the region's meerkats.

HH, ER: Native Fairy Tales by Ethel McPherson

These native fairy tales were collected from the Zulu and Soweto tribes of South Africa and retold in a manner to make them attractive to English boys and girls. The book includes over twenty authentic African folk tales including The Daughter of the Sword, The Snake with Five Heads, and The Kingdoms of the Dead. The color illustrations are particularly outstanding.

HH, YA: South Africa by Ian D. Colvin

This book is a comprehensive history of South Africa from the first exploration of Africa by the Portuguese to the Boer Wars. Twentieth century history not included, but the long struggle between Dutch and English settlers is covered in depth. As part of the Romance of Empire series, the book is helpful in understanding the pro-imperial point of view and the complexities of colonization.

HH, YA: With the Boer Forces by Howard Hillegas

Written by an American Journalist who accompanied the Boer army on several of its campaigns during the Anglo-Boer war, this book gives an excellent first person account of the actual operations and

incidents of the war. It focuses entirely on the military operations involved, but gives a close up and personal account of the lives of the soldiers and leaders of the Boer rebellion against the imperial ambitions of Britain.

HH, YA: Oom Paul's People by Howard Hillegas

This book gives an excellent introduction to the situation in South Africa, immediately preceding the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902. The Boers were a small community of Dutch farmers that had lived in South Africa for over 200 years. In the early 19th century they migrated to a barren region known as the Transvaal in order to escape British control. But when an enormous reserve of gold was found on their land, conflicts with Britain again arose.

HH, YA: Cecil Rhodes by Ian D. Colvin

Cecil Rhodes was called the Colossus of South Africa. He made enormous sums of money on South Africa's natural resources of diamonds and gold, but his real love was politics and he worked ceaselessly toward his vision of a Unified South Africa. Though always a controversial figure, he dedicated his entire life and fortune towards promoting what he considered the best aspects of British culture.

The Ear, the Eye and the Arm by Nancy Farmer

The year is 2174. The place is Zimbabwe, Africa. Three adventurous children escape their parents' heavily guarded mansion to explore the dangerous world outside. They soon learn how dangerous it really is. Tendai, the oldest boy, is their leader, although he worries about being brave enough. Rita, his sister, is an expert at starting fights. Kuda, his little brother, is willing to try anything. They are quickly enslaved in a plastic mine ruled by the terrifying She Elephant and her army of vlei people. Vlei people have been living in the dump so long they look like piles of trash. The children flee them to find new perils. They are pursued by the Ear, the Eye and the Arm, detectives hired by the children's parents, who always seem to arrive too late. The worst danger of all lies at the top of the Mile High MacIlwaine, a hotel so tall that it sways like a tree in the wind. For up there are not merely humans, but spirits whose aim is to devour the souls of Zimbabwe.

Journey to Jo'burg: A South African Story by Beverley Naidoo

Mma lives and works in Johannesburg, far from the village thirteen-year-old Naledi and her younger brother, Tiro, call home. When their baby sister suddenly becomes very sick, Naledi and Tiro know, deep down, that only one person can save her. Bravely, alone, they set off on a journey to find Mma and bring her back. It isn't until they reach the city that they come to understand the dangers of their country, and the painful struggle for freedom and dignity that is taking place all around them.

YA: Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa by David Livingstone

Dr. David Livingstone had lived in Africa for a number of years when he undertook the journey he writes about in this book. It is a remarkable story, told without self-aggrandizement. Livingstone walked over 4,000 miles, from Cape Town, South Africa through the Kalahari Desert to the coastal town of Loanda (now Luanda, Angola), and back along the Zambesi River to the east coast of Mozambique. Only members of the Makololo tribe, with whom he had established a firm friendship, accompanied him. His mission was to stop the slave trade. Livingstone begins the book with a brief overview of his personal life that reveals a fierce determination: he learned Latin, Greek, medicine and theology while

still employed as a cotton-spinner in a Scottish mill. He had hoped to go to China as a missionary but went to Africa instead, and he describes some of his early experiences there.

YA: Whatever You Do, Don't Run by Peter Allison

Peter Allison gives us the guide's-eye view of living in the bush, confronting the world's fiercest terrain of wild animals and, most challenging of all, managing herds of gaping tourists. Passionate for the animals of the Kalahari, Allison works as a top safari guide in the wildlife-rich Okavango Delta. As he serves the whims of his wealthy clients, he often has to stop the impulse to run as far away from them as he can, as these tourists are sometimes more dangerous than a pride of lions.

..... AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS

Australia & New Zealand

VIDEO: Discovery Atlas

Netflix. Australia Revealed.

Our Sunburnt Country by Arthur Baillie

Homeschoolingdownunder.com. A living-book, illustrated history of Australia.

Our Empire Story by H. E. Marshall

MainLesson.com. Vivid and picturesque account of the principal events in the building of the British Empire. Traces the development of the British colonies from days of discovery and exploration through settlement and establishment of government. Includes stories of the five chief portions of the Empire: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and India.

Red Sand Blue Sky by Cathy Applegate

This funny and surprising mystery/adventure is set in the brilliant desert landscape of the Australian outback. Twelve-year-old Amy arrives from Melbourne, unsettled by the starkly different landscape and people. There she meets an Aboriginal girl, Lana, who seems as different as anyone could be—in Amy's eyes. As they learn more about each other's cultures, they also find that they share the loss of their mothers, and their friendship deepens. Soon they are working together to uncover a sinister plot—which may put unto jeopardy everything and everyone they hold dear.

Bright Star by Gary Crew

Picture book. Alicia is a farm girl in 1871 Australia. Thinking she is doomed to a life of needlework and milking cows, her perceptions change when she meets a famous astronomer of the day, John Tebbutt. Soon she realizes that her future can be as limitless as the stars he encourages her to watch.

12 Australian Birds! by Leanne Annett

Children's author Leanne Annett presents this educational book with gorgeous color photographs of Australian birdlife and interesting facts in written text on 12 beautiful yet diverse Aussie birds. If your child likes animals and nature then they are sure to be stimulated and enjoy learning all about these creatures from the small budgie right up to the flightless emu or fairy penguin.

12 Great Barrier Reef Animals! by Leanne Annett

Children's author Leanne Annett presents this educational book with gorgeous color photographs of Australian creatures that live on the Great Barrier Reef off the Queensland coast and interesting facts in written text on 12 beautiful yet diverse Aussie marine animals. If your child likes animals and nature then they are sure to be stimulated and enjoy learning all about these creatures from the blacktip reef sharks to the colorful sea slugs and the giant 100 year old clams.



The Mystery on the Great Barrier Reef: Sydney, Australia (Around the World in 80 Mysteries) by Carole Marsh

It's a trip Down Under for Christina, 10, Grant, 7, and their mystery-writing grandmother Mimi! Don't miss a moment of excitement in Christina and Grant's Australian adventure!

YA: Australia Twice Traversed by Ernest Giles

Gutenberg.org.

YA: The Original Australians: Story of the Aboriginal People by Josephine Flood

Offering insight into the life and experiences of the world's oldest culture, this account of Australia's Aboriginal history spans the mythologies of the Dreamtime through the modern-day problems within the community. Culture and history enthusiasts will get answers to such questions as Where did the Aborigines come from and when? How did they survive in such a harsh environment? and What was the traditional role of Aboriginal women? This story emphasizes the resilience and adaptability of the Aboriginal people, especially throughout their relationship with the Europeans who eventually colonized the continent.

YA: In a Sunburned Country by Bill Bryson

In *A Sunburned Country* is his report on what he found in an entirely different place: Australia, the country that doubles as a continent, and a place with the friendliest inhabitants, the hottest, driest weather, and the most peculiar and lethal wildlife to be found on the planet. The result is a deliciously funny, fact-filled, and adventurous performance by a writer who combines humor, wonder, and unflagging curiosity. Despite the fact that Australia harbors more things that can kill you in extremely nasty ways than anywhere else, including sharks, crocodiles, snakes, even riptides and deserts, Bill Bryson adores the place, and he takes his readers on a rollicking ride far beyond that beaten tourist path. Wherever he goes he finds Australians who are cheerful, extroverted, and unfailingly obliging, and these beaming products of land with clean, safe cities, cold beer, and constant sunshine fill the pages of this wonderful book.

Galápagos

VIDEO: BBC Earth: Galapagos

Amazon Instant Video. Presented in a new, ground-breaking visual style combined with exhilarating cinematography and breathtaking graphics, this landmark new series examines the spectacular variety of wildlife and evokes the different characters of the islands and their history.

Island: A Story of the Galápagos by Jason Chin

Picture book. Charles Darwin first visited the Galápagos Islands almost 200 years ago, only to discover a land filled with plants and animals that could not be found anywhere else on earth. How did they come to inhabit the island? How long will they remain? Thoroughly researched and filled with intricate and beautiful paintings, this extraordinary book by Award-winning author and artist Jason Chin is an epic saga of the life of an island—born of fire, rising to greatness, its decline, and finally the emergence of life on new islands.

Wildlife of the Galápagos by Julian Fitter

The Galápagos is a truly special place. Unlike the rest of the world's archipelagoes, it still has 95 percent of its prehuman quota of species. *Wildlife of the Galápagos* is the most superbly illustrated and comprehensive identification guide ever to the natural splendor of these incomparable islands--islands today threatened by alien species and diseases that have diminished but not destroyed what so enchanted Darwin on his arrival there in 1835. Covering over 200 commonly seen birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, and plants, it reveals the archipelago's striking beauty through more than 400 color photographs, maps, and drawings and well-written, informative text.

The Galápagos: Exploring Darwin's Tapestry by John Hess

The Galapagos ecosystem, a tapestry of living things, is probably the best preserved of any in the world. Like all ecosystems, it is made of many components that are interwoven and interdependent; Darwin's idea explains how such tapestries are organized as well as how they are created. Now, in spectacular pictures and insightful prose, *The Galapagos: Exploring Darwin's Tapestry* opens the Galapagos experience to general readers. With an extensive background in ornithology and evolutionary ecology, a lifetime of experience as naturalist and photographer, and a deep respect for his subjects, John Hess has produced a celebration of these 'Enchanted Islands'.

Galápagos: A Natural History by John Kricher

John Kricher, a renowned ecologist and Galápagos ecotour guide, presents a detailed natural history of this spectacular archipelago. He looks at the amazing diversity of life found here, from iguanas to penguins, and explains the fascinating geology of these remote islands. Throughout his narrative, Kricher weaves the intriguing history of evolutionary biology that is intimately connected with the islands, and describes Darwin's adventures and observations while he was visiting in 1835.

Krakatoa

NW 1948: The Twenty-One Balloons by William Pène du Bois

20th Century Krakatoa. Professor William Waterman Sherman just wants to be alone. So he decides to take a year off and spend it crossing the Pacific Ocean in a hot-air balloon the likes of which no one has ever seen. But when he is found after just three weeks floating in the Atlantic among the wreckage of twenty hot-air balloons, naturally, the world is eager to know what happened. How did he end up with so many balloons . . . and in the wrong ocean?

Polynesia

NW 1941: Call It Courage by Armstrong Sperry

South Seas, Polynesian legend. Mafatu has been afraid of the sea for as long as he can remember. Though his father is the Great Chief of Hikuero - an island whose seafaring people worship courage - Mafatu feels like an outsider. All his life he has been teased, taunted, and even blamed for storms on the sea. Then at age fifteen, no longer willing to put up with the ridicule and jibes, Mafatu decides to take his fate into his own hands. With his dog, Uri, as his companion, Mafatu paddles out to sea, ready to face his fears. What he learns on his lonesome adventure will change him forever and make him a hero in the eyes of his people.

Pacific Islands

NW 1961: Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

20th Century Pacific island. This is the story of Karana, the Indian girl who lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins. Year after year, she watched one season pass into another and waited for a ship to take her away.

Swiss Family Robinson by Johann Wyss

A terrible storm strands a Swiss pastor, with his wife and four sons, on a tropical island. Luckily, the Robinsons are optimistic and inventive, and with what they salvage from the wrecked ship, the island's abundant fruits, plants, and animals, they soon adapt - each day discovering new dangers, skills, and delights in their strange new life.

YA: Island of Doctor Moreau by H. G. Wells

Shipwrecked, Edward Prendick is rescued by a passing boat bound for the island of Doctor Moreau. After a fight with the vessel's captain, Prendick is forced to go ashore on the island, where his curiosity compels him to seek the truth about Doctor Moreau's gruesome experiments. This gripping science fiction novel by H. G. Wells explores themes of cruelty, morality, and man's abuse of nature.

YA: Lord of the Flies by William Golding

William Golding's classic tale about a group of English schoolboys who are plane-wrecked on a deserted island is just as chilling and relevant today as when it was first published in 1954. At first, the stranded boys cooperate, attempting to gather food, make shelters, and maintain signal fires. Overseeing their efforts are Ralph, "the boy with fair hair," and Piggy, Ralph's chubby, wisdom-dispensing sidekick whose thick spectacles come in handy for lighting fires. Although Ralph tries to impose order and delegate responsibility, there are many in their number who would rather swim, play, or hunt the island's wild pig population. Soon Ralph's rules are being ignored or challenged outright. His fiercest antagonist is Jack, the redheaded leader of the pig hunters, who manages to lure away many of the boys to join his band of painted savages. The situation deteriorates as the trappings of civilization continue to fall away, until Ralph discovers that instead of being hunters, he and Piggy have become the hunted: "He forgot his words, his hunger and thirst, and became fear; hopeless fear on flying feet." Golding's gripping novel explores the boundary between human reason and animal instinct, all on the brutal playing field of adolescent competition.

YA: Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

Daniel Defoe relates the tale of an English sailor marooned on a desert island for nearly three decades. An ordinary man struggling to survive in extraordinary circumstances, Robinson Crusoe wrestles with fate and the nature of God.

Hawaii

YA: Hawaii's Story by Hawaii's Queen by Queen Liliuokalani

In 1895, an American diplomat, acting along with prominent American figures in Hawaii, used United States troops to overthrow the monarchy and annex the Hawaiian Islands to the US. This is the story of the end of Hawaiian independence, as told by the island's last monarch, Queen Liliuokalani. Originally published under the title "Hawaii's Story" in 1898.

Kaiulani: The People's Princess, Hawaii, 1889 by Ellen Emerson White

In their hope to restore Hawaii's toppled monarchy and the Hawaiian way of life, the people of Hawaii turn to Princess Kaiulani, who is only a young girl. Acclaimed author Ellen Emerson White makes her debut on the Royal Diaries list with this compelling narrative of the tumultuous years following Hawaii's forced annexation to the United States, skillfully rendering the voice of the young princess and the unrest of a people.

••• CENTRAL / SOUTH AMERICA

VIDEO: BBC: Wild South America

Amazon Instant Video. The South American continent is a land of great extremes, stretching from the Antarctic to the Equator. It has the planet's greatest river system, longest mountain chain, biggest and richest rainforest and driest desert. Using the latest camera techniques, including infrared night vision cameras, rarely seen animals are revealed, while a special aerial camera soars over the continent, revealing an entirely new perspective on its varied and dramatic landscape.

HH, ER: South America by Edith A. Browne

This tour through all of the countries of South America begins in a rubber plantation in the Amazon basin. Other cities in Brazil are visited before embarking to Argentina. A cross country train ride takes us through the central regions of South America through Bolivia to the Inca country. We explore Columbia and Panama before ending our tour in the Guyana regions.

HH, MS: Stories of South America by E. C. Brooks

This book provides an excellent introduction to history of South America, with special attention to the 19th century. It introduces all the major heroes of South American independence in insightful detail, including Miranda, San Martin, Bolivar, O'Higgins, and Don Pedro of Brazil and provides a more thoughtful critique of the various republican factions that embroiled the continent, than some other histories.

Capyboppy by Bill Peet

The true story and adventures of Capyboppy, the Peet family's pet capybara.

In the Land of the Jaguar: South America and Its People by Gena K. Gorrell

South America's story is as varied as its geography of soaring mountains, scorching deserts, and lush rainforests. In Ecuador alone, there are 25,000 kinds of plants, 1,500 species of birds, 4,500 different butterflies, and 300 mammals! Gena K. Gorrell's brilliant text combines an often tragic history with the problems and triumphs of the present. The information she offers ranges from "the Requirement" (a document read out by the conquistadors each time they came upon a new group of indigenous people to justify their actions) to drug cartels, from the hidden and secretive Elders (a civilization that retreated to the mountains to preserve its customs and now considers itself the "guardian of the world") to Gabriel García Márquez.



Cactus Soup by Eric A. Kimmel

When a group of hungry soldiers ride into San Miguel, the townspeople don't want to share their food. They hide their tortillas, tamales, beans, and flour and put on torn clothes to look poor. But the Capitán is not fooled. He asks for a cactus thorn to make some cactus soup, and before long he has tricked the townspeople into giving him salt and chilies, vegetables, and a chicken as well! Whimsical watercolors by Phil Huling add to the humor in this southwestern twist on the classic Stone Soup tale.

The Gold of Dreams by Jose Maria Merino

Dreaming of following in the footsteps of his conquistador father, Miguel Wallace joins his godfather on a perilous trek in search of a golden temple and encounters hostile Indians, hardship, and danger along the way.

Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson

Accompanied by Miss Minton, a fierce-looking, no-nonsense governess, Maia, a young orphan, sets off for the wilderness of the Amazon, expecting curtains of orchids, brightly colored macaws, and a loving family. But what she finds is an evil-tempered aunt and uncle and their spoiled daughters. It is only when she is swept up in a mystery involving a young Indian boy, a homesick child actor, and a missing inheritance that Maia lands in the middle of the Amazon adventure she's dreamed of.

Maya

The Captive by Scott O'Dell

As part of a Spanish expedition to the New World, a Jesuit seminarian witnesses the enslavement and exploitation of the Mayas and is seduced by greed and ambition.

Me Oh Maya #13 (Time Warp Trio) by Jon Scieszka

One minute Joe, Sam, and Fred are shooting hoops in Brooklyn; the next they're on a court that is definitely not in New York, and surrounded by a bunch of players wearing feathered headdresses and not much else. And the other team is saying something about losers being the next blood sacrifices. Uh-oh. Tossed back in time to Chich'itl, Mexico, in the year A.D. 1000, the Time Warp Trio is at it again. But can the guys score and find The Book before the Mayan High Priest and his team force them into "sudden death" overtime?

Lady of Palenque: Flower of Bacal, Mesoamerica, A.D. 749 (The Royal Diaries) by Anna Kirwan

Anna Kirwan, best-selling author of THE ROYAL DIARIES: VICTORIA, MAY BLOSSOM OF BRITANNIA, offers a riveting look at Mayan culture, A.D. 749, through the eyes of Princess Green Jay,

Lady of Palenque. A political marriage is arranged between the thirty-three-year-old king of Xukpip and Princess Green Jay, the thirteen-year-old daughter of the king of Lakamha. Author Anna Kirwan relates fascinating aspects of ancient Mayan culture as she shares the young princess's physical and emotional state from the betrothal, with its distressing rituals, through her arduous journey to a foreign land and people, and a husband who is a complete stranger.

Caribbean

HH, MS: Buccaneers and Pirates by F. R. Stockton

This swashbuckling set of pirate tales makes for a grand feast of adventure stories. With chapters such as *Masters in Piracy*, *A Pirate Potentate*, and *Villainy on a Grand Scale* the author recounts the dastardly deeds and desperate feats of dozens of pirates who terrorized the Caribbean Coasts. There is no shortage of action in this book; most horrifying exploits are rendered in reasonably good taste, and many of the tales are surprisingly amusing.

How Many Days to America?: A Thanksgiving Story by Eve Bunting

After the police come, a family is forced to flee their Caribbean island and set sail for America in a small fishing boat.

Under the Black Flag by Erik Christian Haugaard

Freedom and slavery in eighteenth century life in the Caribbean and South America are studied in this sea adventure story.

My Name Is Not Angelica by Scott O'Dell

In this historical novel set in the Virgin Islands of 1733, Raisha escapes from her Dutch "owners" in time to witness the mass suicide of her fellow slaves, who prefer death to recapture.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Heady tale of a treasure map, a perilous sea journey across the Spanish Main, a mutiny led by the infamous Long John Silver, and a lethal scramble for buried treasure as seen through the eyes of cabin boy Jim Hawkins. An action-packed adventure story that will hypnotize young readers and entertain older ones.

Timothy of the Cay by Theodore Taylor

In the novel *The Cay*, a young white boy and an old black man are stranded on a small sandy cay in the Caribbean Sea following a shipwreck. Eleven-year-old Phillip was blinded by flying debris when a torpedo struck the SS Hato, and old Timothy has taught him how to survive. This prequel-sequel tells the rest of their tale in alternating chapters--the compelling story of two very different people who share the courage and tenacity to turn their dreams into reality.

YA: Wide Sargasso Sea: A Novel by Jean Rhys

Jean Rhys's reputation was made upon the publication of this passionate and heartbreaking novel, in

which she brings into the light one of fiction's most mysterious characters: the madwoman in the attic from Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. A sensual and protected young woman, Antoinette Cosway grows up in the lush natural world of the Caribbean. She is sold into marriage to the coldhearted and prideful Rochester, who succumbs to his need for money and his lust. Yet he will make her pay for her ancestors' sins of slaveholding, excessive drinking, and nihilistic despair by enslaving her as a prisoner in his bleak English home. In this best-selling novel Rhys portrays a society so driven by hatred, so skewed in its sexual relations, that it can literally drive a woman out of her mind.

Haiti

Anacaona: Golden Flower, Haiti, 1490 by Edwidge Danticat

Queen Anacaona was the wife of one of her island's rulers, and a composer of songs and poems, making her popular among her people. Haiti was relatively quiet until the Spanish conquistadors discovered the island and began to settle there in 1492. The Spaniards treated the natives very cruelly, and when the natives revolted, the Spanish governor of Haiti ordered the arrests of several native nobles, including Anacaona, who was eventually captured and executed, to the horror of her people.

El Salvador

Encounter by Jane Yolen

When Christopher Columbus landed on the island of San Salvador in 1492, what he discovered were the Taino Indians. Told from a young Taino boy's point of view, this is a story of how the boy tried to warn his people against welcoming the strangers, who seemed more interested in golden ornaments than friendship. Years later the boy, now an old man, looks back at the destruction of his people and their culture by the colonizers.

Panama

HH, ER: Panama by Edith A. Browne

This book was written while the Panama canal, the most ambitious engineering feat in history up to its time, was under construction. The author presents the physical geography of the region, visits several important towns and cities, and gives a brief history before turning her attention to the progress of the canal.

Venezuela

The Streets are Free by Kurusa

Picture book. This book is based on the true story of the children of the barrio of San Jose de la Urbina in Caracas, Venezuela. Although the mayor promises the children a playground, they realize that they must build it themselves. And they do just that.

Colombia

Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia by Jeanette Winter

Picture book. Luis loves to read, but soon his house in Colombia is so full of books there's barely room for the family. What to do? Then he comes up with the perfect solution--a traveling library! He buys two donkeys--Alfa and Beto--and travels with them throughout the land, bringing books and reading to the children in faraway villages. Beautiful! Complete with an author's note about the real man on whom this story is based.

Waiting for the Biblioburro by Monica Brown

Picture book. Ana loves stories. She often makes them up to help her little brother fall asleep. But in her small village there are only a few books and she has read them all. One morning, Ana wakes up to the clip-clop of hooves, and there before her, is the most wonderful sight: a traveling library resting on the backs of two burros--all the books a little girl could dream of, with enough stories to encourage her to create one of her own. Inspired by the heroic efforts of real-life librarian Luis Soriano, award-winning picture book creators Monica Brown and John Parra introduce readers to the mobile library that journeys over mountains and through valleys to bring literacy and culture to rural Colombia, and to the children who wait for the BiblioBurro.

YA: Bruchko by Bruce Olson

What happens when a nineteen-year-old boy leaves home and heads into the jungles to evangelize a murderous tribe of South American Indians? For Bruce Olson, it meant capture, disease, terror, loneliness, and torture. But what he discovered by trial and error has revolutionized then world of missions.

Ecuador

YA: Through Gates of Splendor by Elisabeth Elliot

Through Gates of Splendor is the true story of five young missionaries who were savagely killed while trying to establish communication with the Auca Indians of Ecuador. The story is told through the eyes of Elisabeth Elliot, the wife of one of the young men who was killed.

Peru

NW 1953: Secret of the Andes by Ann Nolan Clark

20th Century Andes. The story of an Incan boy who lives in a hidden valley high in the mountains of Peru with old Chuto the llama herder. Unknown to Cusi, he is of royal blood and is the 'chosen one.' A compelling story.

Isabella - A Wish for Miguel, Peru 1820 (Girlhood Journeys) Shirlee P. Newman

Since Isabella's mother died, the sparkle has disappeared from her father's eyes. There are no more parties filled with dancing and laughter at the hacienda. Worst of all, the music that was her mother's legacy has abandoned Isabella – she no longer has the heart to play the guitar. Now there is more bad news for Isabella. Miguel, her beloved housekeeper's son and her father's best sheepherder, has been called for service in the mines. The work is hard and dangerous, and many men are injured or even die. Only the viceroy himself has the power to excuse Miguel from service. Can Isabella find the courage to make her wish for Miguel come true – and perhaps her wish for herself and Papa as well?

YA: It's a Jungle Out There by Ron Snell

[Note: I found parts of this extremely disturbing, and we won't be reading it.] Combine one family of American missionaries and 6,000 Machiguenga Indians with the Amazon jungle of Peru and you have a dynamite recipe for adventure. Written for ages 12 through adult, *It's a Jungle Out There!* is a book like no other. Ron's unique sense of humor is liberally sprinkled throughout each page. Yet, while you are laughing at his many escapades, you are also experiencing the blunt realities of primitive tribal life. And you come away with the realization that missions are needed, and that the Gospel changes lives. *It's a Jungle Out There!* appeals to a wide market. From youth groups to home schoolers to anyone who enjoys a good tale well told, this is a book that won't spend time on your shelf.

Brazil

VIDEO: Discovery Atlas

Netflix. Brazil Revealed.

Dancing Turtle: A Folktale from Brazil by Pleasant DeSpain

Picture book. Turtle loves to dance and play the flute. But her exuberance puts her at risk when her music attracts the attention of a hunter who brings her home for turtle stew. After she is caught, her only hope for escape is the hunter's children ... and her own wit. This folktale, first told by the indigenous people of Brazil, is now told throughout Latin America.

The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest by Lynne Cherry

Picture book. The author and artist Lynne Cherry journeyed deep into the rain forests of Brazil to write and illustrate her gorgeous picture book *The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest*

(1990). One day, a man exhausts himself trying to chop down a giant kapok tree. While he sleeps, the forest's residents, including a child from the Yanomamo tribe, whisper in his ear about the importance of trees and how "all living things depend on one another" . . . and it works.

Tales From the Rainforest: Myths and Legends From the Amazonian Indians of Brazil by Jeanne Wilmot

The myths and legends of the Amazonian Indians of Brazil will charm children and adults alike. Translated from the Portuguese and adapted from numerous sources, these tales give the reader a glimpse into the village life, surroundings, and beliefs of the Amazonian Indian. Includes detailed drawings, maps and a glossary of Amerindian and Portuguese words.

Amazonia: Indigenous Tales from Brazil by Daniel Munduruku

Amazonia is an extraordinary book of Brazilian folk tales that combines the authentic voice of Munduruku, an Indian who grew up in the Amazon rainforest, with the imagined Amazon of Russia's foremost children's book illustrator. Mermaids, serpents, tigers, snakes, flying men, witches — extraordinary creatures from the world's most important jungle live on in these tales. The stories are fascinating, and sometimes startling, as protagonists are killed off or transformed into animals — or rise up precipitously into the heavens. More than just rollicking adventures, they offer a panorama of experience — conflict and death, love and seduction, greed and gluttony, hunting and fishing, cooking and caring for plants — and describe the origins of the natural world. Munduruku's storytelling and Popov's imagination bring us the tales of the people of the Amazon in all their magic wonder.

The Tapir Scientist: Saving South America's Largest Mammal by Sy Montgomery

If you've never seen a lowland tapir, you're not alone. Most of the people who live near tapir habitat in Brazil's vast Pantanal ("the Everglades on steroids") haven't seen the elusive snorkel-snouted mammal, either. In this arresting nonfiction picture book, Sibert winners Sy Montgomery and Nic Bishop join a tapir-finding expedition led by the Brazilian field scientist Pati Medici. Aspiring scientists will love the immediate, often humorous "you are there" descriptions of fieldwork, and gadget lovers will revel in the high-tech science at play, from microchips to the camera traps that capture the "soap opera" of tapir life.

Chile

Mariana and the Merchild: A Folk Tale from Chile by Caroline Pitcher

Picture book. Old Mariana longs for friendship, but she is feared by the village children and fearful of the hungry sea-wolves that hide in the sea-caves near her hut. When one day Marianna finds a Merchild inside a crab shell her whole life changes- but she knows that one day, when the sea is calm again, the Merchild's mother will come to take her back. A memorable story of unconditional love, this poetic retelling of a traditional South American folk tale beautifully conveys the joy that may come if you open your heart to what you cannot keep.

The Dreamer by Pam Munoz Ryan

From the time he is a young boy, Neftali hears the call of a mysterious voice. He knows he must follow

it—even when the neighborhood children taunt him, and when his harsh, authoritarian father ridicules him, and when he doubts himself. It leads him under the canopy of the lush rain forest, into the fearsome sea, and through the persistent Chilean rain, until finally, he discovers its source. Combining elements of magical realism with biography, poetry, literary fiction, and sensorial, transporting illustrations, Pam Muñoz Ryan and Peter Sís take readers on a rare journey of the heart and imagination.

Argentina

The Magic Bean Tree: A Legend from Argentina by Nancy Van Laan

Picture book. In the middle of the wide Argentine pampas there once grew a magic tree. Above this tree slept a bird so evil it could stop the rain from falling. And not far from this tree lived a brave boy who one day set out to save his village and all the creatures from dying of thirst. Illustrated with charming folk-art-like paintings and retold with simplicity and drama, this legend of a child's courage and faith explains why Argentines believe that good luck can be found in the shade of a carob tree.

Gauchada by C. Drew Lamm

Picture book. The gauchada offered in this story is a necklace—a token made by a gaucho's own hand and given with love. First it is given to a grandmother, who cherishes it until she feels moved to give an unexpected gift to someone else. In this way, the necklace passes from hand to hand—from heart to heart. It travels farther than the gaucho who made it will ever roam. But each time the necklace is given, his story is told and his message is understood: Love is meant to be given.

On the Pampas by Maria Cristina Brusca

Brusca, a city child from Buenos Aires, recounts a summer spent at her grandparents' estancia on the Argentine pampas. Although she has visited before, this time she participates more fully in the daily life of the gauchos. She and her cousin ride and care for the horses, rope calves, help with the cattle roundup, collect the giant eggs of the nandu, and learn to dance the zamba at Grandmother's birthday asado. On her last morning, the girl brings in the riding horses from the field by herself. In recognition of her summer's growth, Grandmother gives her a much-coveted gaucho belt and the assurance that next year she will have a horse of her own. Brusca's watercolor cartoons, done in a folksy style, are filled with unexpected details of landscape, architecture, clothing, and local flora and fauna, as well as visually pleasing color and form. Even the endpapers depict plants, animals, and everyday objects native to or typical of the pampas. Her work succeeds on two levels—picture book art and social studies. Neither teachers nor students will want to miss this very attractive chance for learning. --Ruth Semrau, Lovejoy School, Allen, Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

.....NORTH AMERICA

Canada

HH, MS: Peeps at History - Canada by Beatrice Home

A concise, and wonderfully illustrated history of Canada. Although short and easily read, it covers all the major events in Canada, from the early settlements of Cartier and Champlain, to the Acadians, and the ongoing wars with the British, culminating in the fall of Quebec, to the early years of British dominion. An excellent introduction to Canadian History.

Canadian Wonder Tales by Cyrus MacMillan

Public domain. Available through MainLesson.com and Gutenberg.org.

Our Empire Story by H. E. Marshall

MainLesson.com. Vivid and picturesque account of the principal events in the building of the British Empire. Traces the development of the British colonies from days of discovery and exploration through settlement and establishment of government. Includes stories of the five chief portions of the Empire: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and India.

The Spirit of Canada: Canada's Story in Legends, Fiction, Poems, and Songs by Barbara Hehner

The Spirit of Canada, a stunning anthology that celebrates our country's life and times, is filled to the brim with stories, songs, poems, legends, and more. This remarkable collection is a must-have for every library. With one hundred and fifty illustrations by some of Canada's most prestigious children's book artists, The Spirit of Canada will prove to be a useful reference guide, as well as a keepsake for generations to come. Beginning with native creation myths, readers are introduced to a cross-section of Canadian history. Chapters include the discovery of the New World, early settlement, and Confederation, as well as legends, humour, and multiculturalism. The Spirit of Canada highlights classic pieces as well as hidden gems. Selections include: The Cremation of Sam McGee by Robert W. Service; In Flanders Fields by John McCrae; Canadian Railway Trilogy by Gordon Lightfoot; The Hockey Sweater by Roch Carrier; This Was My Brother by Mona Gould; and I Am a Canadian #1 by Duke Redbird.



Cave of Journeys by Penny Ross

Join fourteen-year-old Sarah and her eleven-year-old brother Mattie as they journey one hundred years back in time. As they enter a magical cave Sarah, Mattie and their grandfather are mysteriously transported from Iceland in 2011. They arrive in New Iceland, near Gimli, Manitoba. The year is 1911. While exploring, they meet a fourteen-year-old Cree boy named Willow Walker and his First Nations family. The three adventurers stumble upon the CAVE OF JOURNEYS. This magical place records the chapters of humankind through picture writing. Sarah, Mattie and Willow Walker meet an

ancient oak tree who recruits them to retrieve original stories of Canadian history. Their whirlwind adventure in a flying canoe takes them to four locations. The youth rush to visit Elders entrusted to guard rock paintings at sites throughout the Canadian Shield. They have four days to accomplish their goal in a race against time. CAVE OF JOURNEYS, a juvenile fiction novel, combines legend with fantasy. Similar to Alice in ALICE IN WONDERLAND the youth face real issues in a world that combines enchantment and fantasy with reality. Is this world, with oversized creatures, wise Elders and a talking tree real? Is Willow Walker real? Or is it all part of a world where legends abound? Join Sarah, Mattie and Willow Walker on their journey as they discover stories rich in the culture and traditions of Cree, Icelandic and Ojibwe people.

Out of the Deeps by Anne Laurel Carter

Picture book. Like many children throughout Canada's history, Savino had to quit school when he was twelve to work and help his family. In *Out of the Deeps*, Savino spends his first day at the mine working alongside his father and Nelson, his father's pit pony. When Savino's headlamp goes out deep in the coal mine, Nelson leads Savino out of the danger. In 1944 the miners received their first paid holiday and insisted that their pit ponies receive a week's holiday too. In *Out of the Deeps*, Anne Laurel Carter captures a boy's first day at work in the mines and a special pit pony's first glimpse of daylight.

Wingman: One Boy, One Small Town, and the Avro Arrow by Clare Murray

ONE BOY: Mickey has a problem. His world revolves around the new Avro Arrow plane and the soon-to-be-installed Iroquois engines. Word is they'll make it the fastest plane in the world, except... they're loud enough to kill! Has anyone thought of the ground crew? And what will Mickey say when he writes about the Arrow in his sixth-grade speech? ONE SMALL TOWN: Grace Station is home to many families working on the Arrow project like Mickey McCool's and Anastasia Rainer's. But it's home to other people too, like farmer Sid with the great tobogganing hill and Roly Pelletier who runs the grocery store and has a little problem driving in winter - even Bugs Beeton with the purple exploding face. AND THE AVRO ARROW: As Canada's greatest test pilots pull more and more speed from the Arrow, her place in the history books is assured - especially when the Iroquois-fitted planes are scheduled to fly in March. It's a success story in the making... or is it? *Wingman* is the story of one boy's adventure as he learns that following a dream sometimes means disappointment, often requires letting go, and always needs the help of good friends.

Full Steam to Canada (Barr Colony Adventures) by Anne Patton

Dorothy Bolton and her family are making ends meet in Britain in 1903, but the growing number of stories about vast expanses of fertile, free land have definitely caught the eye of her father and her brother. It's her father's dream to have a farm of his own. When young Frank loses his clerk job to a returning Boer War veteran, the Boltons' last good reason for staying where they are is gone with it. They follow the lead of Reverend Isaac Barr, whose stated mission it is to create an exclusively British colony in the new world – one that will keep other peoples out. In lively language and crystal-clear detail, Anne Patton recreates the Boltons' farewell to friends and family, their journey across the Atlantic Ocean in a ship packed with other emigrants on the Barr Colony mission, and their journey by train from the Maritimes to the middle of the Canadian prairie. There's a reason the author's descriptions are so precise. She was able to interview the real-life Dorothy Bolton and record hours of her recollections of those times and that experience. *Full Steam to Canada* is a novel, but it is absolutely “based on a true story.”

Wild Geese by Caroline Pignat

Wild Geese, the sequel to the Governor General's Award winning novel *Greener Grass*, follows Kit Byrne and her friend Mick O'Toole after fleeing famine ravaged Ireland. Across the Atlantic a notorious “coffin ship”, through quarantine, and into the heart of North America, the two displaced teenagers endure storms, epidemics, and discrimination. Desperate to find her family in the New World, Kit is willing to sacrifice everything, even her love for Mick, to reunite the remaining orphaned Byrnes. Jack and Annie are out there somewhere and Kit will not stop searching until she finds them, until her family is together again.

There's a Reason by Leola Kennedy

What if you were born with difficulty hearing? Ten-year-old Paula knows she is different, and worries that she might not be able to hear the teacher at her new country school. What if her classmates tease her? Grandpa reminds Paula that God makes people different for His own reasons, but Paula still wishes she could hear like the other students. When Paula meets George, who has lost a leg, she begins to realize that others hurt, too. This story demonstrates that God creates us all uniquely, and that He has a special plan for each and every one of us.

The Gambler's Daughter by Shirlee Smith Matheson

Loretta, Teddy, and their gambling stepfather “Bean Trap” Braden are one step ahead of the law and a band of angry miners looking for revenge. Run out of town for winning more than his share of their wages, Bean Trap and the children jump borders, hide out in ghost towns, and stow away on trucks, sleds, and trains, dodging sore losers hot on the trail of the winnings. Now Loretta must take the biggest gamble of all and put an end to the pursuit -- can she and Teddy get out of the game and start a new life, or are the stakes too high?

Good for Nothing by Michel Noel

The year is 1959, and fifteen-year-old Nipishish returns to his reserve in northern Quebec after being kicked out of residential school, where the principal tells him he can look forward, like all Native Americans, to a life of drunkenness, prison, and despair. But despite his new freedom, the reserve offers little to a young Métis man. Both his parents are dead, his father Shipu, a respected leader, dying

mysteriously at a young age. When Nipishish is sent to a strange town to live with a white family and attend high school, he hopes for the new life the change promises. But despite some bright spots — a simpatico teacher, a part-time job, a possible girlfriend — the adjustments prove overwhelming. Forced to return to his people, he must try to rediscover the old ways, face the officials who find him a threat, and learn the truth about his father's death. Michel Noël's vibrant writing brings Nipishish's story — and the ongoing struggle of native communities — to life in this powerful tale.

Three Million Acres of Flame by Valerie Sherrard

For Skye Haverill and her family, it begins as an ordinary day. But in the annals of Canadian history, October 7, 1825, is the date of one of our greatest national disasters. The Haverill family has been turned upside down in the last year. Following the death of their mother, Skye and her brother, Tavish, have adjusted to live with a single parent. And when they're asked to make another adjustment -- when his father remarries and his new wife becomes pregnant -- Skye finds that some changes are too much to handle. But family struggles quickly become irrelevant when the Haverills and their community are caught up in the Miramichi Fire, the largest land fire in North American history. As the family and the town struggle through the fire and the devastating aftermath, all must find a way to rebuild homes and relationships.

The Alphabet Stones by Ursula Pflug

The Alphabet Stones is about three families, one of them supernatural, and how they intertwine-with each other and with the land, a moody eastern Ontario of communes, music festivals and cedar swamps; stony farms and muddy rivers. This is a story about enchantment-how the land enchants us, how we enchant one another-why it's necessary that we do, and dangerous when we don't. Like 14 year old Jody, we learn not just the names of trees and stars and birds, but also of "the gate between worlds," a place she stumbles across in a forgotten back pasture, both ordinary and powerfully mysterious.

A Miracle for Maggie by Stephen Eaton Hume

Maggie Davis is a young girl who lives in Chester, Nova Scotia, near Halifax, when her beloved Uncle Nick is killed by diabetes. Maggie's father, a doctor, is greatly saddened by his brother's death, and soon has to deal with his own daughter's diagnosis with the dread disease. Various remedies are tried, including starvation diet popular at the time, but nothing works and Maggie's condition worsens. Meanwhile, in Toronto, Banting and other doctors work night and day to perfect insulin. Will they succeed in time to save Maggie and thousands of others?

The Young City: The Unwritten Books by James Bow

Rosemary Watson and Peter McAllister think their future is clear: they're finally heading off for university. They're thinking about finding apartments, picking courses, living like adults. But what happens when the future becomes the past? While helping Rosemary's brother move into an apartment in Toronto, Peter and Rosemary fall into an underground river and are swept back in time, to Toronto in 1884. It's a struggle to survive and adapt to the alien culture of the late nineteenth century. Peter and Rosemary are forced to work together, to live together, and to become the adults they've only been pretending to be. As the days stranded turn to weeks, then months, Rosemary and Peter begin to wonder if they're really ready for a future together - and what they will do if they can't get back. Then someone brings them a watch, powered by a battery, made in Taiwan.

Skateway to Freedom by Ann Alma

Eleven-year-old Josie Grun escapes from Communist East Germany with her parents one dark night in 1989 just months before the Berlin Wall crumbles. Crossing the ocean to join her uncle in Calgary, she attempts to learn a foreign language and overcome the prejudices of her schoolmates in order to forge a new life. Clinging to the passion that has always been a comfort, her figure skating, she enters a local competition to prove that she is free -- on the ice and off.

The Best Canadian Animal Stories edited by Muriel Whitaker

Farley Mowat, Gabrielle Roy, Grey Owl, Emily Carr and Robertson Davies are among the authors whose stories grace *The Best Canadian Animal Stories*. From a white-tailed deer that survives despite its blindness, a whale harassed by youths in a powerboat and a boy who is saved by his dog in a Cape Breton snowstorm, these are classic animal stories by some of Canada's best writers.

Alaska

VIDEO: National Geographic: Extreme Alaska: Denali National Park

Netflix. Spanning an awe-inspiring 6 million acres of wilderness, located just 200 miles from the Arctic Circle, Alaska's Denali National Park is home to Mount McKinley, the tallest mountain in North America. Journey from the subarctic vistas of the frozen tundra to the seemingly endless taiga forest, and get up close and personal with the wolves, grizzlies, moose and other creatures that call this natural wonder home.

HH, ER: Eskimo Twins by Lucy F. Perkins

Share the adventures of Menie and Monnie, 5 year-old twins in an Eskimo village, where the villagers have to provide for all their own needs. Their father, Kesshoo, is a brave fisherman and strong hunter and their mother Koolee is clever in making clothing and shoes out of the skins of the animals which he brings home. We watch the twins as they spot a polar bear while coasting on their sleds, then join with the villagers in the sharing of the meat and the feasting afterwards. Among the other activities they enjoy are ice fishing, building a snow house, hunting for seals, and traveling by boat to their summering ground where they catch salmon to dry for the winter. Children are captivated by the humor and playfulness in this community where the winter night lasts for four long months!

Water Sky by Jean Craighead George

Lincoln still could not believe it. He had had only one thing in mind when he made the long trip from Massachusetts to Barrow, Alaska, and that was to find his Uncle Jack. He thought Vincent Ologak, an Eskimo whaling captain, could tell him where to find him, for Vincent was the man Uncle Jack had planned to see when he went to Alaska to help save the bowhead whale from extinction. But Vincent Ologak cannot or will not give Lincoln a straight answer. As far as he is concerned, Lincoln is there for a very different purpose from the one he himself imagines: A whale is coming to Lincoln, a whale that will end two years of waiting and suffering for Vincent's people. Nothing in Lincoln's past experience quite prepares him for the whaling camp at Barrow. Here ice is a living presence and the temperature is so cold that spilled water hits the ground as ice balls. Here for the first time he meets young Eskimos-

especially Unpik, with whom he falls deeply in love whose strong identification with their Eskimo culture leads Lincoln to question his own identity. But above all else it is Vincent Ologak's vision of him that teaches Lincoln more than he has ever learned anywhere before.

NW 1973: Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George

20th Century Alaska. Contains a rape scene. To her small Eskimo village, she is known as Miyax; to her friend in San Francisco, she is Julie. When her life in the village becomes dangerous, Miyax runs away, only to find herself lost in the Alaskan wilderness. Without food and time running out, Miyax tries to survive by copying the ways of a pack of wolves. Accepted by their leader and befriended by a feisty pup named Kapu, she soon grows to love her new wolf family. Life in the wilderness is a struggle, but when she finds her way back to civilization, Miyax is torn between her old and new lives. Is she Miyax of the Eskimos -- or Julie of the wolves?

Mexico

HH, ER: Our Little Aztec Cousin by C. V. Winlow

The story of an Aztec boy named Coyotl, who lived a few years before the Spanish conquered Mexico. He was educated by the temple-priests, but later sold into slavery. While traveling with a merchant he had many adventures and helped put down a rebellion against the Aztec empire.

HH, ER: Mexican Twins by Lucy F. Perkins

Tonio and Tita are 8 year-old twins who live on a great hacienda. Their parents work for the Spanish senor who owns the estate, and Tita and Tonio help out around the homestead. While gathering firewood the twins overhear a rebel who is trying to raise an army to overthrow the government and return land to the common people. Will the twins father join the revolutionary army, and if so, what will happen to the family? Read their story to find out.

HH, MS: When I Was a Girl in Mexico by M. Godoy

Public domain. Available through Google and Archive.org.

HH, MS: Maximilian in Mexico by George Upton

The tragic story of Maximilian of Mexico is one of political opportunism and rank treachery. Maximilian and his lovely wife Carlotta, who were pampered European royalty, were in no way prepared for the back-stabbing treachery from both Mexicans and Europeans which confronted them when they accepted the crown of the Mexico.

HH, MS: Into Mexico with General Scott by Edwin Sabin

This work of historical fiction follows the American Army under Winfield Scott during the Mexican-American War. The protagonist is a young man who joins the army and serves under second Lieutenant U. S. Grant. With the rest of the U.S. army, he participates in the landing of U. S. ships at Vera Cruz, and the march of 200 miles inland in order to capture the Capital city of Mexico and force a surrender.

HH, YA: History of Mexico by Frederick Ober

This history of Mexico spends a good deal of time covering the history of the Ancient Mexicans, including the Aztecs and their predecessors, in great detail, before delving into the Spanish conquest, and its aftermath. The incidence covered include history up to about the turn of the 20th century, so ends near the beginning of the reign of Porfirio Diaz and does not include the Mexican Revolution of the 1920's.

HH, YA: Mexico by M. D. Kelly

This thrilling account of the conquest of Mexico by Cortez and his band of conquistadors goes into enough depth to bring alive many of the important secondary characters, and recount the complicated goings-on between hostile tribes of natives as well as the back-stabbing and politicking of the Spaniards. Unlike modern accounts, which tend to simplistically moralize, this version simply recounts the entire complicated story, based directly on original sources. It fully attends to the tragedy of the circumstances, without demonizing either Spaniard or Aztec.

HH, YA: The War with Mexico by H. O. Ladd

This is a thorough and balanced history of the War between Mexico and America, written only twenty years after the conflict. It emphasizes the dubious political machinations that led to the war, and the dysfunctional condition of the Mexican government, as well as American feats of heroism.

HH, YA: The Story of Mexico by Charles Morris

This fascinating book provides an overview of the geography and culture of Mexico, and a history of the region from the time of the Ancient Aztecs until the Mexican revolution in the early twentieth century. The book was published before all of the events related to the Mexican revolution had come to a close, but the early years of the uprising, resulting from the exile of President Diaz and the assassination of his successor Madero, are given in detail, and the heroic feats of Pancho Villa, and other heroes of the revolution are well considered.

HH, YA: High Lights of the Mexican Revolution by J. L. McLeish

Most of the chapters in this book were originally published as articles in an American Masonic magazine, so they contain as much editorializing as they do history. They are high interesting, however, because they provide enormous insight in the philosophical secularism and extreme anti-clericalism that characterized the "constitutionalist" political movement in Mexico. The book is *virulently* anti-catholic, in a manner that is no longer "acceptable" in mainstream publications, but its evident hatred of the Catholic Church genuinely reflects the sentiment of Masonic leaders during the period of the Mexican revolution.

HH, YA: A Short History of Mexico by Arthur H. Noll

This history of Mexico from the earliest history of the Aztecs to the administration of Porfirio Diaz in 1900 is a thorough and well-balanced look at the troubled history of Mexico. It includes three chapters on the achievements of the Spanish Viceroy, a peaceful period frequently omitted entirely from Mexican histories, and presents a balanced rather than a partisan view of the century-long conflict between clerical and secular interests following Mexico's Independence from Spain.

HH, YA: Historical Tales - Spanish American by Charles Morris

This collection of stories from Latin America begins during the age of the Spanish Conquistadors and include lesser known tales such as Lantaro, the hero of the Araucanians, Hidalgo, Paez, and Cudjoe of the Maroons, as well as familiar stories of Pizarro and Cortez. The histories are continued all the way to the end of the 19th century, and the years prior to the Mexican Revolution.

Walk the World's Rim by Betty Baker

A 14-year old Indian joins Cabeza de Vaca's 16th-century expedition through the Southwest. A vivid portrait of Mexican life and the harsh conditions of a primitive Indian tribe.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

In the Shadow of the Alamo by Sherry Garland

Fifteen-year-old Lorenzo Bonifacio never intended to be a soldier. But when the soldados raid his tiny Mexican village, Lorenzo finds himself forced to join General Santa Anna's army . . . all because of the pesky goatherd Catalina and the haughty Esteban Equivel, son of the wealthiest landowner in the region. Taken under wing by the kind Sergeant Ildefonso, Lorenzo and Esteban endure boredom, exhaustion, and hunger as the army makes its way across Mexico to San Antonio de Bexar, where rebellious norte-americanos have barricaded themselves inside an old mission called El Alamo. Neither boy can imagine what lies at the end of the march--defeat, death, glory?--and neither can accept the price paid during the fight for Texas.

Elena by Diane Stanley

A Mexican American girl recounts how her mother moved the family to America during the Mexican Revolution.

YA: The Pearl by John Steinbeck

Like his father and grandfather before him, Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the gulf beds that once brought great wealth to the Kings of Spain and now provide Kino, Juana, and their infant son with meager subsistence. Then, on a day like any other, Kino emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, as "perfect as the moon." With the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and of security. A story of classic simplicity, based on a Mexican folk tale, *The Pearl* explores the secrets of man's nature, the darkest depths of evil, and the luminous possibilities of love.

Contiguous United States

VIDEO: National Geographic: Secret Yellowstone

Netflix. National Geographic cameras capture unseen aspects of magnificent Yellowstone -- America's oldest national park and among the most visited, though only 10 percent of its massive acreage is known and traveled. Viewers journey through the ecosystem's untamed beauty to sites tourists never see, including a 20-mile-long canyon and newly discovered waterfalls. The documentary also focuses on the effects of restoring Yellowstone's wolf population.

VIDEO: National Geographic: Secret Yosemite

Netflix. Yosemite is America's most frequently visited national park, but much of it remains untamed. Thanks to this National Geographic documentary, viewers can venture into Yosemite's spectacular wilderness to marvel at natural wonders tourists never see. The journey through nearly 700,000 acres features breathtaking waterfalls, giant sequoias, the towering El Capitan rock formation and the park's wild denizens, including black bears, bats and foxes.

NW 1927: Smoky, the Cowhorse by Will James

Wild west. Smoky knows only one way of life: freedom. Living on the open range, he is free to go where he wants and to do what he wants. And he knows what he has to do to survive. He can beat any enemy, whether it be a rattlesnake or a hungry wolf. He is as much a part of the Wild West as it is of him, and Smoky can't imagine anything else. But then he comes across a new enemy, one that walks on two legs and makes funny sounds. Smoky can't beat this enemy the way he has all the others. But does he really want to? Or could giving up some of his freedom mean getting something in return that's even more valuable?

NW 1930: Hitty, Her First Hundred Years by Rachel Field

19th Century Maine. Hitty is a doll of great charm and character. It is indeed a privilege to publish her memoirs, which, besides being full of the most thrilling adventures on land and sea, also reveal her delightful personality. One glance at her portrait will show that she is no ordinary doll. Hitty, or Mehitable as she was really named, was made in the early 1800s for Phoebe Preble, a little girl from Maine. Young Phoebe was very proud of her beautiful doll and took her everywhere, even on a long sailing trip in a whaler. This is the story of Hitty's years with Phoebe, and the many that follow in the life of a well-loved doll.

NW 1932: Waterless Mountain by Laura Adams Armer

Navajo. Written in the 1930s by an authority on Native American life and lore, this Newbery Medal winner chronicles a boy's journey toward finding his vocation as a medicine man. Younger Brother's coming-of-age story and his tutelage by his priestly Uncle form the basis for a vivid portrait of Navajo beliefs and traditions.

NW 1934: Invincible Louisa: The Story of the Author of Little Women by Cornelia Meigs

19th Century New England. Biography tracing the fascinating life of Louisa May Alcott from her happy childhood in Pennsylvania and Boston to her success as a writer of such classics as Little women.

NW 1936: Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink

19th Century Wisconsin. Caddie Woodlawn is a real adventurer. She'd rather hunt than sew and plow than bake, and tries to beat her brother's dares every chance she gets. Caddie is friends with Indians, who scare most of the neighbors -- neighbors who, like her mother and sisters, don't understand her at all. Caddie is brave, and her story is special because it's based on the life and memories of Carol Ryrie Brink's grandmother, the real Caddie Woodlawn. Her spirit and sense of fun have made this book a classic that readers have taken to their hearts for more than seventy years.

NW 1937: Roller Skates by Ruth Sawyer

Late 19th Century New York. Growing up in a well-to-do family with strict rules and routines can be tough for a ten-year-old girl who only wants to roller skate. But when Lucinda Wyman's parents go overseas on a trip to Italy and leave her behind in the care of Miss Peters and Miss Nettie in New York City, she suddenly gets all the freedom she wants! Lucinda zips around New York on her roller skates, meeting tons of new friends and having new adventures every day. But Lucinda has no idea what new experiences the city will show her.... Some of which will change her life forever.

NW 1939: Thimble Summer by Elizabeth Enright

Early 20th Century Wisconsin. A few hours after nine-year-old Garnet Linden finds a silver thimble in the dried-up riverbed, the rains come and end the long drought on the farm. The rains bring safety for the crops and the livestock, and money for Garnet's father. Garnet can't help feeling that the thimble is a magic talisman, for the summer proves to be interesting and exciting in so many different ways. There is the arrival of Eric, an orphan who becomes a member of the Linden family; the building of a new barn; and the county fair at which Garnet's carefully tended pig, Timmy, wins a blue ribbon. Every day brings adventure of some kind to Garnet and her best friend, Citronella. As far as Garnet is concerned, the thimble is responsible for each good thing that happens during this magic summer—her thimble summer.

NW 1940: Daniel Boone by James Daugherty

18th Century America. Daniel Boone was a farmer who couldn't stay put. Something was always pulling him westward into new and mysterious lands, and when this pull got so strong that he could no longer ignore it, and his wife and children could not persuade him to stay, he just went, with his toes pointing into the West and his eyes glued to the hills. The rugged sweep which has always distinguished Mr. Daugherty's illustrations and painting distinguishes his epic prose here as well, and makes for perfect portrayal of the vigorous character of Daniel Boone.

NW 1942: The Matchlock Gun by Walter Edmonds

18th Century Colonial New York. In 1756, New York State was still a British colony, and the French and the Indians were constant threats to Edward and his family. When his father was called away to

watch for a raid from the north, only Edward was left to protect Mama and little Trudy. His father had shown him how to use the huge matchlock gun, an old Spanish gun that was twice as long as he was, but would Edward be able to handle it if trouble actually came? This classic, first published in 1941, has an updated, kid-friendly format that includes the original black-and-white illustrations.

NW 1944: Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes

18th Century Colonial Boston. The Year: 1773. The place: Boston. Johnny Tremain is fourteen and apprenticed to a silversmith. He is gifted and lords his skills over the other apprentices, until one day his hand is horribly burned by molten silver. Johnny's dreams of silversmithing are over. A depressed Johnny finds work as a dispatch rider for the Committee of Public Safety, a job that brings him in touch with Boston patriots—and the excitement that will lead to the Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington. Includes a new introduction by Newbery Honor Winner Gary D. Schmidt.

NW 1945: Rabbit Hill by Robert Lawson

Early 20th Century Connecticut. It has been a while since Folks lived in the Big House, and an even longer time has passed since there has been a garden at the House. All the animals of the Hill are very excited about the new Folks moving in, and they wonder how things are going to change. It's only a matter of time before the animals of the Hill find out just who is moving in, and they may be a little bit surprised when they do.

NW 1946: Strawberry Girl by Lois Lenski

Mid-20th Century Florida. The land was theirs, but so were its hardships. Strawberries -- big, ripe, and juicy. Ten-year-old Birdie Boyer can hardly wait to start picking them. But her family has just moved to the Florida backwoods, and they haven't even begun their planting. "Don't count your biddies 'fore they're hatched, gal young un!" her father tells her. Making the new farm prosper is not easy. There is heat to suffer through, and droughts, and cold snaps. And, perhaps most worrisome of all for the Boyers, there are rowdy neighbors, just itching to start a feud.

NW 1947: Miss Hickory by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey

20th Century New Hampshire fairy tale. Most dolls lead a comfortable but unadventurous life. This was true of Miss Hickory until the fateful day that her owner, Ann, moves from her New Hampshire home to attend school in Boston—leaving Miss Hickory behind. For a small doll whose body is an apple-wood twig and whose head is a hickory nut, the prospect of spending a New Hampshire winter alone is frightening indeed. In this classic modern day fairy tale, what's a doll to do?

NW 1952: Ginger Pye by Eleanor Estes

Mid-20th Century America. Eleanor Estes's Ginger Pye, a 1952 Newbery Medal winner, is a warm, witty mystery set in a small-town American community. Ginger Pye, the star of the show, is the very smart dog that ten-year-old Jerry Pye buys for a hard-earned dollar. The most famous pup in Cranbury (a town between Boston and New York), Ginger knows many tricks, is as loyal as he is smart, and steals the hearts of everyone he meets . . . until someone steals him! Will Jerry and his sister Rachel ever be able to find their beloved terrier? The author's own black-and-white sketches leave just enough to the imagination.

NW 1954: ...And Now Miguel by Joseph Krumgold

Mid-20th Century New Mexico. He wanted to be treated like a man, not a child. Every summer the men of the Chavez family go on a long and difficult sheep drive to the mountains. All the men, that is, except for Miguel. All year long, twelve-year-old Miguel tries to prove that he, too, is up to the challenge that he, too, is up to the challenge that he, too, is ready to take the sheep into his beloved Sangre de Cristo Mountains. When his deeds go unnoticed, he prays to San Ysidro, the saint for farmers everywhere. And his prayer is answered . . . but with devastating consequences. When you act like and adult but get treated like a child, what else can you do but keep your wishes secret and pray that they'll come true. This is the story of a twelve-year-old Miguel Chavez, who yearns in his heart to go with the men of his family on a long and hard sheep drive to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains--until his prayer is finally answered, with a disturbing and dangerous exchange.

NW 1956: Carry On, Mr. Bowditch by Jean Lee Latham

18th Century New England. Readers today are still fascinated by “Nat,” an eighteenth-century nautical wonder and mathematical wizard. Nathaniel Bowditch grew up in a sailor’s world—Salem in the early days, when tall-masted ships from foreign ports crowded the wharves. But Nat didn’t promise to have the makings of a sailor; he was too physically small. Nat may have been slight of build, but no one guessed that he had the persistence and determination to master sea navigation in the days when men sailed only by “log, lead, and lookout.” Nat’s long hours of study and observation, collected in his famous work, *The American Practical Navigator* (also known as the “Sailors’ Bible”), stunned the sailing community and made him a New England hero.

NW 1957: Miracles on Maple Hill by Virginia Sorensen

Mid-20th Century, WWII, America. Marly and her family share many adventures when they move from the city to a farmhouse on Maple Hill.

NW 1958: Rifles for Watie by Harold Keith

1861, Civil War, America. Jeff Bussey walked briskly up the rutted wagon road toward Fort Leavenworth on his way to join the Union volunteers. It was 1861 in Linn County, Kansas, and Jeff was elated at the prospect of fighting for the North at last. In the Indian country south of Kansas there was dread in the air; and the name, Stand Watie, was on every tongue. A hero to the rebel, a devil to the Union man, Stand Watie led the Cherokee Indian Na-tion fearlessly and successfully on savage raids behind the Union lines. Jeff came to know the Watie men only too well.

NW 1959: The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

19th Century Connecticut. Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1667. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit. But Kit’s friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed by the colonists to be a witch, proves more taboo than she could have imagined and ultimately forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty.

NW 1960: Onion John by Joseph Krumboltz

20th Century America. The story of a friendship between a 12-year-old boy and an immigrant handyman, almost wrecked by the good intentions of the townspeople.

NW 1963: A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Science Fiction, begins in 20th Century America. It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger. "Wild nights are my glory," the unearthly stranger told them. "I just got caught in a downdraft and blown off course. Let me sit down for a moment, and then I'll be on my way. Speaking of ways, by the way, there is such a thing as a tesseract." A tesseract (in case the reader doesn't know) is a wrinkle in time. To tell more would rob the reader of the enjoyment of Miss L'Engle's unusual book. *A Wrinkle in Time*, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem.

NW 1964: It's Like This, Cat by Emily Neville

20th Century New York. My father is always talking about how a dog can be very educational for a boy. This is one reason I got a cat. Dave Mitchell and his father yell at each other a lot, and whenever the fighting starts, Dave's mother gets an asthma attack. That's when Dave storms out of the house. Then Dave meets Tom, a strange boy who helps him rescue Cat. It isn't long before Cat introduces Dave to Mary, a wonderful girl from Coney Island. Slowly Dave comes to see the complexities in people's lives and to understand himself and his family a little better.

NW 1967: Up a Road Slowly by Irene Hunt

20th Century America. After her mother's death, Julie goes to live with Aunt Cordelia, a spinster schoolteacher, where she experiences many emotions and changes as she grows from seven to eighteen.

NW 1968: *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg

20th Century New England. When suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn't just want to run from somewhere she wants to run to somewhere--to a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and preferably elegant. She chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Knowing that her younger brother, Jamie, has money and thus can help her with the serious cash flow problem she invites him along. Once settled into the museum, Claudia and Jamie, find themselves caught up in the mystery of an angel statue that the museum purchased at an auction for a bargain price of \$250. The statue is possibly an early work of the Renaissance master Michelangelo, and therefore worth millions. Is it? Or isn't it? Claudia is determined to find out. This quest leads Claudia to Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, the remarkable old woman who sold the statue and to some equally remarkable discoveries about herself.

NW 1970: Souder by William H. Armstrong

19th Century American South. *Souder* traces the keen sorrow and the abiding faith of a poor African-American boy in the 19th-century South. The boy's father is a sharecropper, struggling to feed his family in hard times. Night after night, he and his great coon dog, Souder, return to the cabin empty-handed. Then, one morning, almost like a miracle, a sweet-smelling ham is cooking in the family's kitchen. At last

the family will have a good meal. But that night, an angry sheriff and his deputies come, and the boy's life will never be the same.

NW 1971: Summer of the Swans by Betsy Byars

20th Century America. "The longest day in the life of a 14-year-old girl--the summer day her loved, mentally retarded brother is lost, the day she discovers compassion is a friend. A compelling story."-- Publishers Weekly

NW 1972: Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien

20th Century America. Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, is faced with a terrible problem. She must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma. And Mrs. Frisby in turn renders them a great service.

NW 1974: The Slave Dancer by Paula Fox

19th Century New Orleans. One day, thirteen-year-old Jessie Bollier is earning pennies playing his fife on the docks of New Orleans; the next, he is kidnapped and thrown aboard a slave ship, where his job is to provide music while shackled slaves "dance" to keep their muscles strong and their bodies profitable. As the endless voyage continues, Jessie grows increasingly sickened by the greed, brutality, and inhumanity of the slave trade, but nothing prepares him for the ultimate horror he will witness before his nightmare ends -- a horror that will change his life forever.

NW 1975: M. C. Higgins, the Great by Virginia Hamilton

20th Century Kentucky. Mayo Cornelius Higgins sits on his gleaming, forty-foot steel pole, towering over his home on Sarah's Mountain. Stretched before him are rolling hills and shady valleys. But behind him lie the wounds of strip mining, including a mountain of rubble that may one day fall and bury his home. M.C. dreams of escape for himself and his family. And, one day, atop his pole, he thinks he sees it -- two strangers are making their way toward Sarah's Mountain. One has the ability to make M.C.'s mother famous. And the other has the kind of freedom that M.C. has never even considered.

NW 1977: Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

Early 20th Century Deep South. The story of one African American family fighting to stay together and strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930s.

NW 1978: Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

20th Century America. Jess Aarons' greatest ambition is to be the fastest runner in his grade. He's been practicing all summer and can't wait to see his classmates' faces when he beats them all. But on the first day of school, a new girl boldly crosses over to the boys' side and outruns everyone. That's not a very promising beginning for a friendship, but Jess and Leslie Burke become inseparable. Together they create Terabithia, a magical kingdom in the woods where the two of them reign as king and queen, and their imaginations set the only limits. Then one morning a terrible tragedy occurs. Only when Jess is able to come to grips with this tragedy does he finally understand the strength and courage Leslie has given him.

NW 1979: The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

20th Century America. When an eccentric millionaire dies mysteriously, sixteen very unlikely people are gathered together for the reading of the will...and what a will it is!

NW 1980: A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal, 1830-1832 by Joan W. Blots

Early 19th Century New England. This novel, written in diary form, tells of “a pivotal year for 19th-century New Englander Catherine Cabot Hill—one of change, loss, and leave taking . . . a low-key, intense and reflective book”.--”School Library Journal”, starred review.

NW 1981: Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Paterson

20th Century Chesapeake Bay. Sara Louise Bradshaw is sick and tired of her beautiful twin Caroline. Ever since they were born, Caroline has been the pretty one, the talented one, the better sister. Even now, Caroline seems to take everything: Louise's friends, their parents' love, her dreams for the future. For once in her life, Louise wants to be the special one. But in order to do that, she must first figure out who she is . . . and find a way to make a place for herself outside her sister's shadow.

NW 1983: Dicey's Song by Cynthia Voigt

20th Century Maryland. When Momma abandoned Dicey Tillerman and her three siblings in a mall parking lot and was later traced to an asylum where she lay unrecognizing, unknowing, she left her four children no choice but to get on by themselves. They set off alone on foot over hundreds of miles until they finally found someone to take them in. Gram's rundown farm isn't perfect, but they can stay together as a family—which is all Dicey really wanted. But after watching over the others for so long, it's hard for Dicey to know what to do now. Her own identity has been so wrapped up in being the caretaker, navigator, penny counter, and decision maker that she's not sure how to let go of some responsibilities while still keeping a sense of herself. But when the past comes back with devastating force, Dicey sees just how necessary—and painful—letting go can be.

NW 1984: Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary

20th Century America. Dear Mr. Henshaw, I wish somebody would stop stealing the good stuff out of my lunchbag. I guess I wish a lot of other things, too. I wish someday Dad and Bandit would pull up in front in the rig ... Dad would yell out of the cab, “Come on, Leigh. Hop in and I'll give you a lift to school.” Leigh Botts has been author Boyd Henshaw's number one fan ever since he was in second grade. Now in sixth grade, Leigh lives with his mother and is the new kid at school. He's lonely, troubled by the absence of his father, a cross-country trucker, and angry because a mysterious thief steals from his lunchbag. Then Leigh's teacher assigns a letter-writing project. Naturally Leigh chooses to write to Mr. Henshaw, whose surprising answer changes Leigh's life.

NW 1986: Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan

19th Century Midwest America. Their mother died the day after Caleb was born. Their house on the prairie is quiet now, and Papa doesn't sing anymore. Then Papa puts an ad in the paper, asking for a wife, and he receives a letter from one Sarah Elisabeth Wheaton, of Maine. Papa, Anna, and Caleb write back. Caleb asks if she sings. Sarah decides to come for a month. She writes Papa: I will come by train. I will wear a yellow bonnet. I am plain and tall, and Tell them I sing. Anna and Caleb wait and wonder. Will Sarah be nice? Will she like them? Will she stay?

NW 1988: Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman

19th Century America. A description of the boyhood, marriage, and young professional life of Abraham Lincoln includes his presidential years and also reflects on the latest scholarly thoughts about our Civil War president.

NW 1991: Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

20th Century America. Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

NW 1992: Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

20th Century West Virginia. When Marty Preston comes across a young beagle in the hills behind his home, it's love at first sight -- and also big trouble. It turns out the dog, which Marty names Shiloh, belongs to Judd Travers, who drinks too much and has a gun -- and abuses his dogs. So when Shiloh runs away from Judd to Marty, Marty just has to hide him and protect him from Judd. But Marty's secret becomes too big for him to keep to himself, and it exposes his entire family to Judd's anger. How far will Marty have to go to make Shiloh his?

NW 1993: Missing May by Cynthia Rylant

20th Century America. When May dies suddenly while gardening, Summer assumes she'll never see her beloved aunt again. But then Summer's Uncle Ob claims that May is on her way back--she has sent a sign from the spirit world. Summer isn't sure she believes in the spirit world, but her quirky classmate Cletus Underwood--who befriends Ob during his time of mourning--does. So at Cletus' suggestion, Ob and Summer (with Cletus in tow) set off in search of Miriam B. Young, Small Medium at Large, whom they hope will explain May's departure and confirm her possible return.

NW 1995: Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

20th Century American Midwest. As Sal entertains her grandparents with Phoebe's outrageous story, her own story begins to unfold--the story of a thirteen-year-old girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother. In her own award-winning style, Sharon Creech intricately weaves together two tales, one funny, one bittersweet, to create a heartwarming, compelling, and utterly moving story of love, loss, and the complexity of human emotion.

NW 1997: The View from Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg

20th Century America. How had Mrs. Olinski chosen her sixth-grade Academic Bowl team? She had a number of answers. But were any of them true? How had she really chosen Noah and Nadia and Ethan and Julian? And why did they make such a good team? It was a surprise to a lot of people when Mrs. Olinski's team won the sixth-grade Academic Bowl contest at Epiphany Middle School. It was an even bigger surprise when they beat the seventh grade and the eighth grade, too. And when they went on to even greater victories, everyone began to ask: How did it happen?

NW 1998: Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

1930s Oklahoma. This gripping story, written in sparse first-person, free-verse poems, is the compelling tale of Billie Jo's struggle to survive during the dust bowl years of the Depression. With stoic courage, she learns to cope with the loss of her mother and her grieving father's slow deterioration. There is hope at the end when Billie Jo's badly burned hands are healed, and she is able to play her beloved piano again.

NW 1999: Holes by Louis Sachar

19th Century Latvia, 19th Century America, 20th Century America. This winner of the Newbery Medal and the National Book Award features Stanley Yelnats, a kid who is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake: the warden is looking for something. Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

NW 2000: Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

1936 Michigan. It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan, and when 10-year-old Bud decides to hit the road to find his father, nothing can stop him.

NW 2001: A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck

1937 Illinois. Mary Alice's childhood summers in Grandma Dowdel's sleepy Illinois town were packed with enough drama to fill the double bill of any picture show. But now she is fifteen, and faces a whole long year with Grandma, a woman well known for shaking up her neighbors-and everyone else! All Mary Alice can know for certain is this: when trying to predict how life with Grandma might turn out . . . better not. This wry, delightful sequel to the Newbery Honor Book *A Long Way from Chicago* has already taken its place among the classics of children's literature.

NW 2005: Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata

1950s American Midwest. Glittering. That's how Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. The sky is kira-kira because its color is deep but see-through at the same time. The sea is kira-kira for the same reason. And so are people's eyes. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering -- kira-kira -- in the future.

NW 2006: Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins

20th Century America. She wished something would happen. Something good. To her. Checking her wish for loopholes, she found one. Hoping it wasn't too late, she thought the word soon. Meanwhile, in another part of town, he felt as if the world was opening. Life was rearranging itself; bulging in places, fraying in spots. He felt himself changing, too, but into what? So much can happen in a summer.

NW 2007: The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron

20th Century America. Lucky, age ten, can't wait another day. The meanness gland in her heart and the crevices full of questions in her brain make running away from Hard Pan, California (population 43), the rock-bottom only choice she has. It's all Brigitte's fault -- for wanting to go back to France. Guardians are supposed to stay put and look after girls in their care! Instead Lucky is sure that she'll be abandoned to some orphanage in Los Angeles where her beloved dog, HMS Beagle, won't be allowed. She'll have to lose her friends Miles, who lives on cookies, and Lincoln, future U.S. president (maybe) and member of the International Guild of Knot Tyers. Just as bad, she'll have to give up eavesdropping on twelve-step anonymous programs where the interesting talk is all about Higher Powers. Lucky needs her own -- and quick. But she hadn't planned on a dust storm. Or needing to lug the world's heaviest survival-kit backpack into the desert.

NW 2010: When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

1970s New York City. This remarkable novel holds a fantastic puzzle at its heart. By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, and they know who to avoid. Like the crazy guy on the corner. But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a kid on the street for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen. And then a mysterious note arrives, scrawled on a tiny slip of paper. The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows things no one should know. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she's too late.

NW 2011: Moon over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool

1936 Kansas. Abilene Tucker feels abandoned. Her father has put her on a train, sending her off to live with an old friend for the summer while he works a railroad job. Armed only with a few possessions and her list of universals, Abilene jumps off the train in Manifest, Kansas, aiming to learn about the boy her father once was. Having heard stories about Manifest, Abilene is disappointed to find that it's just a dried-up, worn-out old town. But her disappointment quickly turns to excitement when she discovers a hidden cigar box full of mementos, including some old letters that mention a spy known as the Rattler. These mysterious letters send Abilene and her new friends, Lettie and Ruthanne, on an honest-to-goodness spy hunt, even though they are warned to "Leave Well Enough Alone." Abilene throws all caution aside when she heads down the mysterious Path to Perdition to pay a debt to the reclusive Miss Sadie, a diviner who only tells stories from the past. It seems that Manifest's history is full of colorful and shadowy characters—and long-held secrets. The more Abilene hears, the more determined she is to learn just what role her father played in that history. And as Manifest's secrets are laid bare one by one, Abilene begins to weave her own story into the fabric of the town.

NW 2012: Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos

1962 Pennsylvania. Melding the entirely true and the wildly fictional, *Dead End in Norvelt* is a novel about an incredible two months for a kid named Jack Gantos, whose plans for vacation excitement are shot down when he is "grounded for life" by his feuding parents, and whose nose spews bad blood at every little shock he gets. But plenty of excitement (and shocks) are coming Jack's way once his mom loans him out to help a feisty old neighbor with a most unusual chore—typewriting obituaries filled with stories about the people who founded his utopian town. As one obituary leads to another, Jack is launched on a strange adventure involving molten wax, Eleanor Roosevelt, twisted promises, a

homemade airplane, Girl Scout cookies, a man on a trike, a dancing plague, voices from the past, Hells Angels . . . and possibly murder. Endlessly surprising, this sly, sharp-edged narrative is the author at his very best, making readers laugh out loud at the most unexpected things in a dead-funny depiction of growing up in a slightly off-kilter place where the past is present, the present is confusing, and the future is completely up in the air.

NW 2013: *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

20th Century America. Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. In fact, he hardly ever thinks about it at all. Instead, Ivan thinks about TV shows he's seen and about his friends Stella, an elderly elephant, and Bob, a stray dog. But mostly Ivan thinks about art and how to capture the taste of a mango or the sound of leaves with color and a well-placed line. Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home—and his own art—through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it's up to Ivan to make it a change for the better.

***The Last Snake Runner* by Kimberley Griffiths Little**

A sequel to *Enchanted Runner* (Avon, 1999), this book stands on its own as a work of historical fiction and a time-travel story. Kendall, 14, has rediscovered his Native American roots in New Mexico at the Acoma Pueblo, ancestral home of his mother's family. He is the last of the Snake Clan, a long line of warriors and mystics responsible for carrying out the yearly ceremonies that propitiate the gods and bring rain. In his modern existence, he is struggling to deal with the death of his mother. When his father remarries, the teen cannot accept the woman, and he flees into the desert. Transported back to 1598, he becomes part of the vibrant life of the Acoma people, who live on a mesa and farm the surrounding land. The tribe's interaction with a group of Spaniards outfitted in armor results in tragic and devastating consequences, with Kendall a participant, witness, and one of the few survivors. The violence and brutality are powerfully portrayed in this action-filled story. Details of everyday life on the mesa and the people's strong spiritual connection to the land are what make this book stand apart from many other time-travel stories. An author's note explains that the historical events described are based on an eyewitness account by one of the Spanish soldiers. The novel succeeds as a fast-paced adventure and as a meditation on the consequences of a clash of dissimilar cultures.