

7th US History OUTSIDE READING LIST

NOTE TO READERS: Before selecting any of these books for additional reading, please review them with your parents. Different families have different levels of comfort with fictional works, since they can include adult language, violence, and strong emotions. Nonfiction is based in fact, but it can be biased, gory, intense, and/or uncomfortable. These books are well-regarded, but they are not necessarily appropriate for every student and may not meet every family's standard as to what their children should read.

Auth.	Title	F/N	Description
Colonial America			
Bradford, William	<i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i>	NON	<p>The most important and influential source of information about the Pilgrims and Plymouth Colony, this landmark account was written between 1630 and 1647. It vividly documents the Pilgrims' adventures: their first stop in Holland, the harrowing transatlantic crossing aboard the Mayflower, the first harsh winter in the new colony, and the help from friendly Native Americans that saved their lives.</p> <p>No one was better equipped to report on the affairs of the Plymouth community than William Bradford. Revered for his patience, wisdom, and courage, Bradford was elected to the office of governor in 1621, and he continued to serve in that position for more than three decades. His memoirs of the colony remained virtually unknown until the nineteenth century. Lost during the American Revolution, they were discovered years later in London and published after a protracted legal battle. The current edition rendered into modern English and with an introduction by Harold Paget, remains among the most readable books from seventeenth-century America.</p>
Cooper, James Fenimore	<i>The Last of the Mohicans</i>		<p>The wild rush of action in this classic frontier adventure story has made <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> the most popular of James Fenimore Cooper's Leatherstocking Tales. Deep in the forests of upper New York State, the brave woodsman Hawkeye (Natty Bumppo) and his loyal Mohican friends Chingachgook and Uncas become embroiled in the bloody battles of the French and Indian War. The abduction of the beautiful Munro sisters by hostile savages, the treachery of the renegade brave Magua, the ambush of innocent settlers, and the thrilling events that lead to the final tragic confrontation between rival war parties create an unforgettable, spine-tingling picture of life on the frontier. And as the idyllic wilderness gives way to the forces of civilization, the novel presents a moving portrayal of a vanishing race and the end of its way of life in the great American forests.</p>
Field, Rachel	<i>Calico Bush</i>	FIC	<p>In 1743, thirteen-year-old Marguerite Ledoux travels to Maine as the indentured servant of a family that regards her as little better than the Indians that threaten them, but her strength, quick thinking and courage surprise them all.</p>

Fritz, Jean	<i>The Double Life of Pocahontas</i>	NON	In a story that is as gripping as it is historical, Newbery Honor-winning author Jean Fritz reveals the true life of Pocahontas. Though at first permitted to move freely between the Indian and the white worlds, Pocahontas was eventually torn between her new life and the culture that shaped her.
Grant, George	<i>The Last Crusader: The Untold Story of Christopher Columbus</i>		Christopher Columbus' journal reveals that he was not only a man of God, but that his voyage in 1492 was motivated in part by his evangelistic zeal. Written in narrative, this story concludes with a discussion of the conflicts and controversies that suddenly surrounded the navigator during the quincentennial celebration of his accomplishment.
Jackson, Shirley	<i>The Witchcraft of Salem Village</i>	NON	Stories of magic, superstition, and witchcraft were strictly forbidden in the little town of Salem Village. But a group of young girls ignored those rules, spellbound by the tales told by a woman named Tituba. When questioned about their activities, the terrified girls set off a whirlwind of controversy as they accused townspeople after townspeople of being witches. Author Shirley Jackson examines in careful detail this horrifying true story of accusations, trials, and executions that shook a community to its foundations.
Latham, Jean Lee	<i>Carry On, Mr. Bowditch</i>		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, <i>The American Practical Navigator</i> (also known as the "Sailors' Bible"), stunned the sailing community and made him a New England hero.
Latham, Jean Lee	<i>This Dear-Bought Land</i>	FIC	In 1607 a fifteen-year-old boy joins the expeditionary force that hopes to establish a permanent English colony in Virginia.
Lodge, Henry Cabot and Roosevelt, Theodore	<i>Hero Tales from American History; or The Story of Some Americans, Who Showed That They Knew How to Live and How to Die</i>	NON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● George Washington ● Daniel Boone and the Founding of Kentucky ● George Rogers Clark and the Conquest of the Northwest ● The Battle of Trenton ● Bennington ● King's Mountain ● The Storming of Stony Point

	(PURE ROOSEVELT ON THE TITLE!! LOL)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Governor Morris ● The Burning of the “Philadelphia” ● The “Wasp” ● The “General Armstrong” ● Privateer ● The Battle of New Orleans ● John Quincy Adams and the Right of Petition” ● Francis Parkman ● “Remember the Alamo!” ● Hampton Roads ● The Flag-Bearer ● The Death of Stonewall Jackson ● The Charge at Gettysburg ● General Grant and the Vicksburg Campaign ● Robert Gould Shaw ● Charles Russell Lowell ● Sheridan at Cedar Creek ● Lieutenant Cushing and the Ram ● “Albemarle” ● Farragut at Mobile Bay ● Lincoln
Mansfield, Stephen	<i>Forgotten Founding Father: The Heroic Legacy of George Whitefield</i>	NON	<p>For many of those who are even familiar with his name, George Whitefield is thought of as a preacher, a man connected with the Great Awakening in the 1700s. While this is true, it is only part of the story. As a student at Oxford University, he experienced a spiritual awakening under the influence of John Wesley’s Methodists and immediately began tending to prisoners, caring for the poor, and preaching the Christian gospel. He met with astounding success, in time speaking to larger crowds than had ever gathered in the history of England. Whitefield became the most famous man of his age.</p> <p>His impact upon the American colonies, however, may have been his most lasting gift. In seven tours of the colonies, Whitfield preached from Georgia to Maine, calling the colonists to spiritual conversion and challenging them in their sense of national destiny. He befriended men like Benjamin Franklin, converted men like Patrick Henry, and inspired men like George Washington. Furthermore, when he learned that England intended to tighten her control over the colonies, Whitefield warmed his American friends in sermon after sermon and even accompanied Benjamin Franklin to make the American case in the Court of Saint James. Many of the colonists considered him the father of their revolution.</p>

			<p><i>Forgotten Founding Father</i> captures the early struggles and international successes of this amazing leader. The result is a portrait of a gifted but flawed human who yielded himself as a tool in the hands of a sovereign God. Also portrayed is how important Whitfield was to the American cause and how much Americans today owe to him -- a story that will inspire a new generation with a past vividly and truthfully retold.</p>
Speare, Elizabeth George	<i>Calico Captive</i>	FIC	<p>In the year 1754, the stillness of Charlestown, New Hampshire, is shattered by the terrifying cries of an Indian raid. Young Miriam Willard, on a day that had promised new happiness, finds herself instead a captive on a forest trail, caught up in the ebb and flow of the French and Indian War.</p> <p>It is a harrowing march north. Miriam can only force herself to the next stopping place, the next small portion of food, the next icy stream to be crossed. At the end of the trail waits a life of hard work and, perhaps, even a life of slavery. Mingled with her thoughts of Phineas Whitney, her sweetheart on his way to Harvard, is the crying of her sister's baby, Captive, born on the trail.</p> <p>Miriam and her companions finally reach Montreal, a city of shifting loyalties filled with the intrigue of war, and here, by a sudden twist of fortune, Miriam meets the prominent Du Quesne family, who introduce her to a life she has never imagined. Based on an actual narrative diary published in 1807, <i>Calico Captive</i> skillfully reenacts an absorbing facet of history.</p>
Speare, Elizabeth George	<i>The Sign of the Beaver</i>	FIC	<p>In this Newbery Honor Book, a thirteen-year-old boy struggles to survive on his own in the wilderness of eighteenth-century Maine.</p> <p>When Matt's father leaves him on his own to guard their new cabin in the wilderness, Matt is scared but determined to be brave and prove that he can take care of himself. And things are going fine until a white stranger steals his gun, leaving Matt defenseless and unable to hunt for his food.</p> <p>Then Matt meets Attean, a Native boy from the Beaver tribe, and soon learns that people called the land around him home long before the white settlers ever arrived. As Attean teaches him more about his own culture, Matt must come to terms with what the changing frontier really means.</p> <p>Now with an introduction by critically acclaimed writer Joseph Bruchac about the historical context and the relationships between Native peoples and white settlers in the eighteenth century.</p>

Speare, Elizabeth George	<i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i>		Kit Tyler must leave behind shimmering Caribbean islands to join the stern Puritan community of her relatives. She soon feels caged, until she meets the old woman known as the Witch of Blackbird Pond. But when their friendship is discovered, Kit herself is accused of witchcraft!
Revolutionary War			
Carlson, Drew	<i>Attack of the Turtle</i>	FIC	Set against the backdrop of the American Revolutionary War, fourteen-year-old Nathan works with his older cousin David Bushnell to create the first submarine. But if Nathan really wants to help his people win independence he will need to overcome his fear of water and investigate his suspicions that his neighbors are Tory spies.
Forbes, Esther	<i>Johnny Tremain</i>	FIC	<p>Fourteen-year-old Johnny Tremain, an apprentice silversmith with a bright future ahead of him, injures his hand in a tragic accident, forcing him to look for other work. In his new job as a horse-boy, riding for the patriotic newspaper The Boston Observer and as a messenger for the Sons of Liberty, he encounters John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and Dr. Joseph Warren.</p> <p>Soon Johnny is involved in the pivotal events of the American Revolution, from the Boston Tea Party to the first shots fired at Lexington. Powerful illustrations by artist Michael McCurdy help bring this classic novel for middle graders to life.</p> <p>"This sweeping tale of redcoats and revolutionaries has a lot to offer. Forbes, a historian, writes with detail and precision, imbuing historical events with life and passion that is often lacking in textbooks."</p>
Foster, Joanna	<i>George Washington's World</i>	NON	<p>The period measured by the life of George Washington, 1732 to 1799, was one of revolution and change in many parts of the world as Enlightenment thinking took hold in the minds of men. Prolifically illustrated with intriguing line drawings and detailed timelines, Foster's telling of the life story of George Washington does justice to the man it celebrates.</p> <p>When George was a young man, Benjamin Franklin was the most well-known American, Louis XV was on the throne of France, and George II was king of England. Father Junipero Serra had just arrived in Mexico to work with the Panes Indians. Mozart and Bach were writing their immortal music and Voltaire warred with his pen against Ignorance, Injustice and Superstition. The young nobleman Lafayette watched the feisty American colonies with fascinated interest as they stood up to Mother England when she sought to tax them unfairly. James Cook was sent by the Royal Society of London to</p>

			<p>Tahiti where their team of astronomers might observe a total eclipse of the sun and thereby accurately measure the distance between the earth and the sun.</p> <p>These are just a few of the wonderful narratives explored by Foster in this engaging biography.</p>
Franklin, Benjamin	<i>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>	FIC	<p>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin is the traditional name for the unfinished record of his own life written by Benjamin Franklin from 1771 to 1790; however, Franklin himself appears to have called the work his Memoirs. Although it had a tortuous publication history after Franklin's death, this work has become one of the most famous and influential examples of an autobiography ever written.</p> <p>Franklin's account of his life is divided into four parts, reflecting the different periods at which he wrote them. There are actual breaks in the narrative between the first three parts, but Part Three's narrative continues into Part Four without an authorial break.</p> <p>In the "Introduction" of the 1916 publication of the Autobiography, editor F. W. Pine wrote that Franklin's biography provided the "most remarkable of all the remarkable histories of our self-made men" with Franklin as the greatest exemplar.</p>
Fritz, Jean	<i>Why Not Lafayette?</i>	NON	<p>A young Frenchman of nineteen traveling across the sea to help a struggling nation fight for its independence? Why not? To Lafayette, anything was possible. A man who threw off the boundaries imposed on him to stand up for what he believed, the Marquis de Lafayette grew from an idealistic young man searching for honor and glory, into an idealistic statesman with rock-solid principles of liberty. Here, Jean Fritz brings to life the exciting story of the brave and appealing man known as "The Hero of the New World."</p>
Martin, Joseph Plumb	<i>A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier: Some Adventures, Dangers, and Sufferings of Joseph Plumb Martin</i>	NON	<p>Here a private in the Continental Army of the Revolutionary War narrates his adventures in the army of a newborn country.</p>
Murphy, Jim	<i>A Young Patriot</i>	NON	<p>The story of the American Revolution as experienced by a Connecticut farm boy who enlisted in the army in 1776. A Young Patriot skillfully weaves together excerpts from the</p>

			<p>boy's wartime account with the author's explanatory text to create a fascinating and factual history of the American Revolution.</p> <p>Only fifteen when he enlisted, Joseph Plumb Martin spent the rest of his teen and young adult years marching, working, fighting, foraging, and starving while serving under the likes of Washington and Lafayette.</p> <p>Through the mix of Martin's observations and experiences, the historical context that Murphy provides, and maps and archival prints, the book vividly reveals the grit and drama of war—and a teenager who was eyewitness to a Revolution.</p>
O'Reilly, Bill and Dugard, Martin	<i>Killing England: The Brutal Struggle for American Independence</i>	NON	<p>This breathtaking installment in Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard's mega-bestselling <i>Killing</i> series transports readers to the most important era in our nation's history: the Revolutionary War. Told through the eyes of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Great Britain's King George III, <i>Killing England</i> chronicles the path to independence in gripping detail, taking the reader from the battlefields of America to the royal courts of Europe.</p> <p>What started as protest and unrest in the colonies soon escalated to a world war with devastating casualties. O'Reilly and Dugard recreate the war's landmark battles, including Bunker Hill, Long Island, Saratoga, and Yorktown, revealing the savagery of hand-to-hand combat and the often brutal conditions under which these brave American soldiers lived and fought. Also here is the reckless treachery of Benedict Arnold and the daring guerrilla tactics of the "Swamp Fox" Frances Marion.</p> <p>A must read, <i>Killing England</i> reminds one and all how the course of history can be changed through the courage and determination of those intent on doing the impossible.</p>
Savery, Constance	<i>The Reb and the Redcoats</i>	FIC	<p>The Revolutionary War is seen through the eyes of a British family to whom an American prisoner of war has been entrusted. Technically the young prisoner is in Uncle Lawrence's custody, but the children soon forge a forbidden friendship with him. He becomes The Reb and they, his Redcoats. After the Reb nearly dies, even Uncle Lawrence, embittered by the unjust death of a friend in America, thaws toward him—but this doesn't stop the Reb from scheming to escape. Constance Savery deftly weaves themes of trust and forgiveness into an interesting plot with likable characters.</p>
Early Republic			

Andersen, Laurie Halse	<i>Fever 1793</i>	FIC	Based on the actual 1793 Yellow Fever epidemic in Philadelphia, fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook must deal with the death of her childhood playmate and the fever that's overtaken the city down by the docks. At first the illness means prosperity to her family's small business and makes Mattie dream about someday running her own coffee house. But then the fever spreads, threatening Mattie, her family, and the future she's imagined for herself.
Blos, Joan	<i>A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal</i>	FIC	A Gathering of Days is Joan W. Blos' novel that serves as a fictional version of a New England girl's journal. The journal of a 14-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend.
Calabro, Marian	<i>The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party</i>	NON	On April 14, 1846, the Donner Party set out from Springfield, Illinois, in search of a better life in the largely unsettled California territory. The trip started well but eventually questionable choices and infighting delayed pioneers' attempt to cross the Sierra Nevada until winter. As the impassable snows closed in and their supplies dwindled to nothing, the group faced an almost hopeless struggle for survival that would push some toward the final taboo of cannibalism. Nearly half the members of the Donner Party were children. This account, filled with selections from the survivors' letters and diaries, focuses on the children's experiences, making it uniquely compelling and accessible to young readers.
Daugherty, James	<i>Of Courage Undaunted: Across the Continent with Lewis and Clark</i>	NON	Newbery and Caldecott Medal winner James Daugherty has applied his literary and artistic skill to bringing to life the remarkable expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their 3555-mile trek from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. Taken largely from original accounts of the expedition, Daugherty has written in his simple, forceful, and lyrical way to evoke the drama and pathos of what was one of America's most daring journeys of discovery. Commissioned in 1803 by President Thomas Jefferson to explore and open up this vast territory, Lewis and Clark felt it was the realization of a lifelong dream. Against the hardships of the wilderness, possible attack by hostile Indians, sudden blizzards and terrifying natural obstacles, these two men led the Corps of Discovery ably and nobly to complete their mission. Their Corps included American Indians from the Sioux, Mandan, Shoshone, Clatsop and Chopunnish tribes. Sacajawea, the only woman on the trip, was a Shoshone woman who contributed invaluable service as interpreter and guide. Daugherty's evocative sepia and black ink illustrations depict individuals of humor, vitality, passion, and strength.

Erdrich, Louise	<i>The Birchbark House</i>	FIC	Louise Erdrich wrote these stories about a seven-year-old Ojibwa girl named Omakayas in direct contrast to the pioneer life depicted in Laura Ingalls Wilder's <i>Little House books</i> . The only survivor of a small pox epidemic on her island, Omakayas is raised by a neighboring Ojibwa community on Lake Superior's Madeline Island. We see Omakayas and her adoptive family move through the daily life of four seasons, from tanning moose hides to encounter bear cubs and sharing ghost stories around the fire.
Myers, Walter Dean	<i>Juba</i>	FIC	Peppered with photographs and maps, this account of the life of dancer William Henry Lane mixes intensely researched fact with an imagined personal account. Lane, better known as "Master Juba," was a famous black dancer in the U.S. and UK in the 1800s. His style of minstrel dancing got him noticed by Charles Dickens, helped him travel the world, and influenced today's step dancing, jazz, and tap.
O'Dell, Scott	<i>Streams to the River, River to the Sea</i>	FIC	<p>The award-winning author Scott O'Dell brings Sacagawea's story to life, giving us a breathtaking account of this young heroine's role in an American saga.</p> <p>Sacagawea, a young Native American woman, accompanied by her infant and her cruel husband, experiences joy and heartbreak when she joins the Lewis and Clark expedition seeking a way to the Pacific.</p> <p>When young Sacagawea first lays eyes on the white men coming up the river, she cannot imagine the impact they will have on her life-and she on theirs. For the men coming up the river are about to make history, and she is going to help them.</p> <p>Sacagawea joined the Lewis and Clark team as an interpreter and guide. Her knowledge of the language, land, and people of the unchartered West made her an integral part of their success.</p> <p>Like the author's Newbery Medal-winning classic <i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>, Scott O'Dell's <i>Streams to the River, River to the Sea</i> is a gripping tale of survival, strength, and courage.</p>
Severance, John B,	<i>Thomas Jefferson: Architect of Democracy</i>	NON	The words of the Declaration of Independence, so familiar to us and so important to our country, were those of Thomas Jefferson. He was a primary force behind United States independence. Without his influence, our country would be vastly different from the nation we know today. Jefferson initiated public education, established a national library, and paved the way for the abolishment of slavery. Although he was not a power-hungry or even ambitious politician, Jefferson served in many different offices, including

			<p>president, in order to help his fledgling country remain on its feet. His faith and dedication to the idea of self-government never wavered, even in the face of many personal hardships. John B. Severance traces Jefferson's life from his plantation boyhood to his two terms as president and his last days preparing for the opening of the University of Virginia, weaving details of both Jefferson's political career and his rich personal life together to create a thoughtful and well-researched biography. Jefferson quotes, bibliography, index.</p>
Wilder, Laura Ingalls	<i>The Little House on the Prairie</i>	FIC	<p>The adventures continue for Laura Ingalls and her family as they leave their little house in the Big Woods of Wisconsin and set out for the big skies of the Kansas Territory. They travel for many days in their covered wagon until they find the best spot to build their house. Soon they are planting and plowing, hunting wild ducks and turkeys, and gathering grass for their cows. Just when they begin to feel settled, they are caught in the middle of a dangerous conflict.</p> <p>The nine Little House books are inspired by Laura's own childhood and have been cherished by generations of readers as both a unique glimpse into America's frontier history and as heartwarming, unforgettable stories.</p>
Antebellum Era			
Aldrich, Thomas Bailey	<i>The Story of a Bad Boy</i>	FIC	<p>In 1869 Thomas Bailey Aldrich introduced to American literature the original "bad boy"--that all-American boy who plays harmless pranks, devises exciting adventures, has an occasional bout of love-sickness, is bored on Sundays, and is well-liked by almost everyone. Later followed by Mark Twain's <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> and <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>, <i>The Story of a Bad Boy</i>--once called the first truly American novel--is Aldrich's partially autobiographical tale of growing up in America. Set in Rivermouth (based on Aldrich's childhood home in Portsmouth, New Hampshire), it follows the exploits of young Tom Bailey through snowball wars, schoolyard fights, Fourth of July parades, adventures at sea, and childhood sweethearts. Now printed in more than fifty editions and read and beloved by Americans for over a century, Aldrich's classic is ready to be rediscovered by a new generation of readers.</p>
Beatty, Patricia	<i>Turn Homeward, Hannalee</i>	FIC	<p>As the Civil War comes to a close, resourceful Hannalee must find her way home.</p> <p>In this classic historical fiction for young readers, plucky twelve-year-old Hannalee Reed, sent north to work in a Yankee mill, struggles to return to the family she left behind in war-torn Georgia.</p>

			This powerful early-middle grade novel, based on historical events, reveals a little-known side to our most significant American conflict.
Brown, Dee	<i>Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West</i>	NON	<p>First published in 1970, <i>Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee</i> is Dee Brown's eloquent, meticulously documented account of the systematic destruction of American Indians during the second half of the nineteenth century. A national bestseller in hardcover for more than a year after its initial publication, it has sold almost four million copies and has been translated into seventeen languages. It was the basis for the 2007 movie of the same name from HBO films.</p> <p>Using council records, autobiographies, and firsthand descriptions, Brown introduces readers to great chiefs and warriors of the Dakota, Ute, Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes, revealing in heart-wrenching detail the battles, massacres, and broken treaties that methodically stripped them of freedom. A forceful narrative still discussed today as revelatory and controversial, <i>Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee</i> permanently altered our understanding of how the American West came to be defined.</p>
Cornelissen, Cornelia	<i>Soft Rain: A Story of the Cherokee Trail of Tears</i>	FIC	<p>It all begins when Soft Rain's teacher reads a letter stating that as of May 23, 1838, all Cherokee people are to leave their land and move to what many Cherokees called "the land of darkness" . . . the west. Soft Rain is confident that her family will not have to move, because they have just planted corn for the next harvest but soon thereafter, soldiers arrive to take nine-year-old, Soft Rain, and her mother to walk the Trail of Tears, leaving the rest of her family behind.</p> <p>Because Soft Rain knows some of the white man's language, she soon learns that they must travel across rivers, valleys, and mountains. On the journey, she is forced to eat the white man's food and sees many of her people die. Her courage and hope are restored when she is reunited with her father, a leader on the Trail, chosen to bring her people safely to their new land.</p>
Crockett, David	<i>Davy Crockett: His Own Story: A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett</i>	NON	A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett of the State of Tennessee. Written in 1834, this autobiography is like a tall tale of the life of a frontiersman, and established Davy Crockett as a larger-than-life American hero.
Hannigan, Kate	<i>The Detective's Assistant</i>	FIC	Eleven-year-old Nell only has one person between her and the orphanage. She needs to convince her aunt to take her in. But her aunt is Kate Warne, the first female detective who worked for the Pinkerton Detective Agency during the Civil War. To persuade her aunt

			to let her stay, Nell tries to make herself useful solving mysteries, including one mission to save President Lincoln.
Nolen, Jerdine	<i>Calico Girl</i>	FIC	Twelve-year-old Callie Wilcomb is a slave living with her family when Abraham Lincoln is arrested. And when Virginia succeeds from the union, the contraband law means that if her family can get to Fort Monroe, they won't be returned to their owners. With new freedom comes new dreams for Callie, but her new life isn't free from hardship or the lingering trauma of her time working as a slave.
Pinkney, Andrea Davis	<i>Silent Thunder</i>	NON	The title of this novel refers to the process where enslaved children learn to hold their thoughts and questions inside in order to survive. This is particularly difficult for eleven-year-old Summer, who has questions about everything from who her father is to why her mother seems so upset most of the time. Her older brother Roscoe conceals questions and secrets of his own. In the era of the Civil War, both siblings are determined to make a better life for themselves despite the danger.
Schaefer, Jack	<i>Shane</i>		<p>This classic Western is a profoundly moving story of the influence of a singular character on one boy's life.</p> <p>The Starrett family's life forever changes when a man named Shane rides out of the great glowing West and up to their farm.</p> <p>Young Bob Starrett is entranced by this stoic stranger who brings a new energy to his family. Shane stays on as a farmhand, but his past remains a mystery. Many folks in their small Wyoming valley are suspicious of Shane and make it known that he is not welcome.</p> <p>But dangerous as Shane may seem, he is a staunch friend to the Starretts—and when a powerful neighboring rancher tries to drive them out of their homestead, Shane becomes entangled in the deadly feud.</p> <p>"If you read only one Western in your life, this is the one."</p>
Schanzer, Rosalyn	<i>How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis and Clark</i>	NON	Appealing art and descriptive text bring Lewis and Clark alive for young adventurers. Carefully chosen text from Lewis and Clark's actual journals opens a fascinating window into this country's exciting history.

Sperry, Armstrong	<i>All Sail Set: A Romance of the Flying Cloud</i>	FIC	<p>When his father loses his fortune at sea, a boy, Enoch Thacher, signs up with a famous shipbuilder and takes a record-breaking trip around Cape Horn on the famous Flying Cloud.</p> <p>The Flying Cloud was a real ship and its maker was master shipbuilder, Donald McKay (1810-1880). The era depicted in this novel is a time when the windships were the queens of the ocean and sail was king. McKay's company, located in East Boston, launched many of the fastest clipper ships in history, with Flying Cloud being his most famous ship of all.</p> <p>In All Sail Set, McKay puts Enoch to work during the lofting, building, and rigging of the Flying Cloud, and then to ship out on her for her maiden, record-breaking trip around the Horn. Accompanied by Sperry's wonderfully vigorous drawings, this realistic nautical yarn from the glory days of sail will appeal to adults as well as young adult readers with a taste for historical adventure.</p>
Twain, Mark	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	FIC	<p>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is a novel by Mark Twain, first published in the United Kingdom in December 1884 and in the United States in February 1885. Commonly named among the Great American Novels, the work is among the first in major American literature to be written throughout in vernacular English, characterized by local color regionalism. It is told in the first person by Huckleberry "Huck" Finn, a friend of Tom Sawyer and narrator of two other Twain novels (Tom Sawyer Abroad and Tom Sawyer, Detective). It is a direct sequel to The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. The book is noted for its colorful description of people and places along the Mississippi River. Set in a Southern antebellum society that had ceased to exist about twenty years before the work was published, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is an often scathing satire on entrenched attitudes, particularly racism.</p>
Twain, Mark	<i>Tom Sawyer</i>	FIC	<p>Mark Twain created the memorable characters Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn drawing from the experiences of boys he grew up with in Missouri. Set by the Mississippi River in the 1840's, it follows these boys as they get into predicament after predicament. Tom's classic whitewashing of the fence has become part of American legend, and the book paints a nostalgic picture of life in the middle of the nineteenth century. Tom runs away from home to an island in the river, chases Injun Joe and his treasure, and even gets trapped in a cave for days with Becky Thatcher. The book is one of Twain's most beloved stories.</p>
Vaughn, David J.	<i>Give Me Liberty: The Uncompromising</i>	NON	Henry: A Giant Among Leaders

	<i>Statesmanship of Patrick Henry</i>		<p>"Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slaver? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"</p> <p>These compelling words embodied the patriotic spirit of Patrick Henry—a brilliant orator whose love of liberty, won at any cost, fueled the fire of the American Revolution.</p> <p>Patrick Henry was a hero.</p> <p>In this incredible look at his leadership in action, we see why Henry's love of liberty gave him the courage to stand in the face of tyranny and prevail.</p>
Civil War and Reconstruction			
Alcott, Louisa May	<i>Little Women</i>	FIC	<p>Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there's one thing they can't help wondering: Will Father return home safely?</p>
Catton, Bruce	<i>A Stillness at Appomattox</i>	NON	<p>Recounting the final year of the Civil War, this classic volume by Bruce Catton won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for excellence in non-fiction.</p> <p>In this final volume of the Army of the Potomac Trilogy, Catton, America's foremost Civil War historian, takes the reader through the battles of the Wilderness, the Bloody Angle, Cold Harbor, the Crater, and on through the horrible months to one moment at Appomattox. Grant, Meade, Sheridan, and Lee vividly come to life in all their failings and triumphs.</p>
Crane, Stephen	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	FIC	<p>First published in 1895, this small masterpiece set the pattern for the treatment of war in modern fiction. The novel is told through the eyes of Henry Fleming, a young soldier caught up in an unnamed Civil War battle who is motivated not by the unselfish heroism of conventional war stories, but by fear, cowardice, and finally, egotism. However, in his struggle to find reality amid the nightmarish chaos of war, the young soldier also discovers courage, humility, and perhaps, wisdom.</p> <p>Although Crane had never been in battle before writing <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>, the book was widely praised by experienced soldiers for its uncanny re-creation of the sights, sounds, and sense of actual combat. Its publication brought Crane immediate</p>

			international fame and established him as a major American writer. Today, nearly a century later, the book ranks as an enduring landmark of American fiction.
Derry, Joseph Tyrone	<i>Story of the Confederate States or History of the War for Southern Independence</i>	NON	The Civil War, as told by those who lost.
Douglass, Frederick	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>	NON	The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass is an 1845 memoir and treatise on abolition written by famous orator and former slave Frederick Douglass during his time in Lynn, Massachusetts. It is generally held to be the most famous of a number of narratives written by former slaves during the same period. In factual detail, the text describes the events of his life and is considered to be one of the most influential pieces of literature to fuel the abolitionist movement of the early 19th century in the United States.
Henty, G.A.	<i>With Lee in Virginia</i>	FIC	<p>In this spirited tale of adventure, Vincent Wingfield, who is not yet sixteen, returns home to Virginia after four years of school in England to find conditions in America greatly unsettled. When war breaks out in 1861, Vincent staunchly supports the rights of slaves but joins Lee's cavalry to fight for the Confederacy.</p> <p>Henty's gripping story, written several decades after the war, weaves the spirited teenager's adventures with real-life events, while providing an acute glimpse of the conflict from a Southern perspective.</p> <p>A prolific 19th-century author, G. A. Henty celebrates family, honor, loyalty, bravery, and determination in the face of adversity. Set against the backdrop of an exciting historical era, this story, recently rediscovered by young readers, will excite the imaginations of today's youngsters as much as it thrilled readers when first published.</p>
Hunt, Irene	<i>Across Five Aprils</i>	FIC	<p>The Newbery Award-winning author of <i>Up a Road Slowly</i> presents the unforgettable story of Jethro Creighton—a brave boy who comes of age during the turbulent years of the Civil War.</p> <p>In 1861, America is on the cusp of war, and young Jethro Creighton is just nine-years-old. His brother, Tom, and his cousin, Eb, are both of fighting age. As Jethro's family is pulled into the conflict between the North and the South, loyalties are divided, dreams are threatened, and their bonds are put to the test in this heart-wrenching, coming of age story.</p>

			<p>“Drawing from family records and from stories told by her grandfather, the author has, in an uncommonly fine narrative, created living characters and vividly reconstructed a crucial period of history.”—Booklist</p>
Kantor, MacKinlay	<i>Gettysburg</i>	NON	<p>When troops entered Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the South seemed to be winning the Civil War. But Gettysburg was a turning point. After three bloody days of fighting, the Union finally won the battle. Inspired by the valor of the many thousands of soldiers who died there, President Lincoln visited Gettysburg to give a brief but moving tribute. His Gettysburg Address is one of the most famous speeches in American history.</p>
L'Amour, Louis	<i>The Lonesome Gods</i>	FIC	<p>“I am Johannes Verne, and I am not afraid.”</p> <p>This was the boy’s mantra as he plodded through the desert alone, left to die by his vengeful grandfather. Johannes Verne was soon to be rescued by outlaws, but no one could save him from the lasting memory of his grandfather’s eyes, full of impenetrable hatred. Raised in part by Indians, then befriended by a mysterious woman, Johannes grew up to become a rugged adventurer and an educated man. But even now, strengthened by the love of a golden-haired girl and well on his way to making a fortune in bustling early-day Los Angeles, the past may rise up to threaten his future once more. And this time only the ancient gods of the desert can save him.</p>
Lester, Julius	<i>To Be a Slave</i>	NON	<p>What was it like to be a slave? Listen to the words and learn about the lives of countless slaves and ex-slaves, telling about their forced journey from Africa to the United States, their work in the fields and houses of their owners, and their passion for freedom. You will never look at life the same way again.</p> <p>“The dehumanizing aspects of slavery are made abundantly clear, but a testament to the human spirit of those who endured or survived this experience is exalted.”—Children’s Literature</p>
Murphy, Jim	<i>The Boys’ War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War</i>	NON	<p>This contemporary classic explores the role of boys who fought in the Civil War. No reader’s vision of America’s most brutal and bloody war will be the same after reading this book.</p> <p>“This wrenching look at our nation’s bloodiest conflict through the eyes of its youthful participants serves up history both heartbreaking and enlightening.” —Publishers Weekly</p>

			<p>Some Union and Confederate soldiers were as young as twelve when they went off to fight in the Civil War. It is thought that as many as ten to twenty percent of all Civil War soldiers may have been under sixteen.</p> <p>The Boys' War follows these young soldiers through the rigors of camp life and drilling, right into the chaos of the battlefield. Jim Murphy skillfully weaves together firsthand accounts and personal letters of these countless young men with historical context to paint their portrait—young soldiers who, either seeking escape from the drudgery of farm work or embracing fantasies of glory, participated in the Civil War.</p> <p>Handsomely produced with numerous period photographs and drawings, <i>The Boys' War</i> is a winner of the Golden Kite Award for Nonfiction and an ALA Best Book for Young Adults.</p> <p>“Making extensive use of the actual words—culled from diaries, journals, memoirs, and letters—of boys who served in the Union and Confederate armies as fighting soldiers as well as drummers, buglers, and telegraphers, Murphy describes the beginnings of the Civil War and goes on to delineate the military role of the underage soldiers and their life in the camps and field bivouacs. Also included is a description of the boys' return home and the effects upon them of their wartime experiences. An excellent selection of more than 45 sepia-toned contemporary photographs augment the text of this informative, moving work.” —School Library Journal (starred review)</p> <p>“This well-researched and readable account provides fresh insight into the human cost of a pivotal event in United States history.” —The Horn Book (starred review)</p>
Steele, William O.	<i>We Were There on the Oregon Trail</i>	NON	Journey on the Oregon with Jeffrey Hunt who with this mother and sister go to Oregon to look for his lost father. Experience dust, wind, Indians, a buffalo stampede and more as these pioneers are the first travelers on the Oregon Trail.
Sutcliffe, Andrea	<i>Mighty Rough Times, I Tell You: Personal Accounts of Slavery in Tennessee</i>	NON	In 1929, the Social Sciences Department at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, began recording the oral histories of former slaves. During the mid-1930s, the Federal Writers' Project undertook a similar effort, ultimately compiling more than two thousand interviews and ten thousand pages of material in seventeen states. In this volume, thirty-six former slaves living in Tennessee recount what it was like to live under the yoke. Tennessee was not a large slaveholding state compared with others in the South. On the other hand, it was a leader in the abolition movement prior to 1830 and a powder keg of mixed Union and Confederate sympathies at the time of the Civil War. The voices in this volume thus recall the extreme conditions of slavery in the border country.

Washington, Booker T.	<i>Up From Slavery</i>	NON	<p>Born in a Virginia slave hut, Booker T. Washington (1856–1915) rose to become the most influential spokesman for African Americans of his day. In this eloquently written book, he describes events in a remarkable life that began in bondage and culminated in worldwide recognition for his many accomplishments. In simply written yet stirring passages, he tells of his impoverished childhood and youth, the unrelenting struggle for an education, early teaching assignments, his selection in 1881 to head Tuskegee Institute, and more.</p> <p>A firm believer in the value of education as the best route to advancement, Washington disapproved of civil-rights agitation and in so doing earned the opposition of many black intellectuals. Yet, he is today regarded as a major figure in the struggle for equal rights, one who founded a number of organizations to further the cause and who worked tirelessly to educate and unite African Americans.</p>
Wilkins, J. Steven	<i>Call of Duty: The Sterling Nobility of Robert E. Lee</i>	NON	<p>Although the Civil War was the bitterest epoch of American experience -- dividing families, sundering communities, and enforcing fierce regional enmity -- Robert E. Lee was admired and respected by partisans from both sides. This volume examines the attributes of life and service that enabled Lee to become a model of leadership for all time.</p>
Winik, Jay	<i>April 1865: The Month That Saved America</i>	NON	<p>One month in 1865 witnessed the frenzied fall of Richmond, a daring last-ditch Southern plan for guerrilla warfare, Lee's harrowing retreat, and then, Appomattox. It saw Lincoln's assassination just five days later and a near-successful plot to decapitate the Union government, followed by chaos and coup fears in the North, collapsed negotiations and continued bloodshed in the South, and finally, the start of national reconciliation.</p> <p>In the end, April 1865 emerged as not just the tale of the war's denouement, but the story of the making of our nation.</p> <p>Jay Winik offers a brilliant new look at the Civil War's final days that will forever change the way we see the war's end and the nation's new beginning. Uniquely set within the larger sweep of history and filled with rich profiles of outsize figures, fresh iconoclastic scholarship, and a gripping narrative, this is a masterful account of the thirty most pivotal days in the life of the United States.</p>
Yates, Elizabeth	<i>Amos Fortune: Free Man</i>	FIC	<p>When Amos Fortune was only fifteen years old, he was captured by slave traders and brought to Massachusetts, where he was sold at auction. Although his freedom had been taken, Amos never lost his dignity and courage. For 45 years, Amos worked as a slave and dreamed of freedom. And, at age 60, he finally began to see those dreams come true.</p>

