

History (and Historical Fiction) Books

Many topics have more than one title—it's good to have more than one perspective.

Reading Level Correlation Chart at

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/library/libraries/firsttuesdays/readingchart.pdf>

Native Americans

North American Indian Girl and Boy paper dolls in full color by Kathy Allert (Dover) grades K-2
The Very First Americans by Cara Ashrose grade 2 & read aloud
Igloos and Inuit Life by Louise Spilsbury (The Big Picture, First Facts series) grade 2
North American Indians by Marie and Douglas Gorsline grade 2-3 & read aloud
American Indian Crafts Kids Can Do by Carol Gnojewski (Multicultural Crafts Kids Can Do) gr 2-4
Knots on a Counting Rope by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault, grades 2-5
Plains Indians (An Educational Read & Color Book) grades 3-4
A River Lost by Lynn Bragg, grades 3-5
Native Americans (Discoveries) grades 3-6, reference
Indian Tribes of North America by Peter F. Copeland (Dover coloring book) grades 3-7
Northwest Coast Indians coloring book (Dover) grades 4-7
North American Indians coloring album by Frank Fox grades 4-7
North American Indian by David Murdoch (Eyewitness Books) grades 5-7 and reference
Hunters of the Arctic Rim by Paul Jensen grades 5-7+

Explorers

Leif the Lucky by Ingri & Edgar d'Aulaire perhaps grades 3-5 (Leif Erikson, reads like fiction)
Columbus by Edgar & Ingri d'Aulaire, perhaps grades 3-5
Christopher Columbus by Stephen Krensky (Step into Reading, Level 3) grade 2
I, Columbus: My Journal 1492-1493 ed Peter and Connie Roop grades 3-5
Explorers: An Activity Book by John Artman (Good Apple) grades 3-5
Historic Sailing Ships coloring book by the Tre Tryckare Company (Dover) grades 3-7

Colonies

Pocahontas by Caryn Jenner (DK Readers, Level 2) grade 2
Pocahontas by Ingri d'Aulaire, perhaps grades 3-5, fanciful retelling reflects 1946 ideas
John Smith: English Explorer and Colonist by Tara Baukus Mello (Colonial Leaders) grades 3-5
The Pilgrim's First Thanksgiving by Ann McGovern (Scholastic) grade 2
Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving by Joseph Bruchac, gr 2-3 & read-aloud
The Story of the Pilgrims by Katharine Ross, grades 2-3
If You Sailed on the Mayflower in 1620 by Ann McGovern (Scholastic) grades 2-4
Christmas on the Mayflower by Wilma Pitchford Hays grades 3-5

Colonial Life

Mouse Creeps by Peter Harris grade 1 or read aloud
Drummer Hoff adapted by Barbara Emberley grade 1-2 or read-aloud (1968 Caldecott Award)
School in Colonial America by Mark Thomas (Welcome Books) grade 1-2, early intervention 10
If You Lived in Colonial Times by Ann McGovern (Scholastic) grades 2-4

Going to School by Philip Steele (Everyday History) grades 3-5
Trouble at Otter Creek by Wilma Pitchford Hays (setting 1775) grades 3-5
Life on a Plantation by Bobbi Kalman (Historic Communities) grades 3-6
Diary of Sally Wister: A Colonial Quaker Girl by Sally Wister (First Person Histories) grades 3-7
Life in Colonial America by Peter F. Copeland (Dover coloring book) grades 4-6 and reference
Early Travel (Early Settler Life) grades 4-7
The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare, 1959 Newberry Award, 1687
Connecticut, I loved it when young; guided reading W, grade 6
The Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper grades 5-7+
(Ladybird Children's Classics, grades 4-6)
(Great Illustrated Classics, grades 3-6)
Daniel Boone by James Daugherty, 1940 Newberry Award, a few readers loved, most reviews
on goodreads were very negative. Keep in mind when it was written. I haven't read it myself.
The Matchlock Gun by Walter Edmonds, 1942 Newberry Award, French & Indian War,
860 Lexile, gr 2-5; mixed reviews, not as many negative as Daniel Boone by James
Daugherty. The story is set and the writer wrote in a different time than today.
The American Girls series (girls' stories from 1764-1970s)

Revolutionary Era

Ben Franklin Thinks Big by Sheila Keenan (I Can Read! Level 2) grade 2
Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares by Frank Murphy (Step into Reading, Level 4) grade 2
Benjamin Franklin by Ann Marie Anderson (Scholastic, When I Grow Up, Level 3) grade 2-3
Benjamin Franklin: Extraordinary Patriot by Deborah Kent (Scholastic) grades 3-5
Benjamin Franklin: Inventor, Statesman, and Patriot by R. Conrad Stein, grade 3-5
Benjamin Franklin by Edgar & Ingri d'Aulaire, grades 3-5. Guided Reading level S
George Washington by Caroline Crosson Gilpin (National Geographic Kids, Level 2) grade 1-2
George Washington and the General's Dog by Frank Murphy (Step into Reading Level 3) gr 1-2
If You Grew Up with George Washington by Ruth Gross, grades 3-5
George Washington by Edgar & Ingri d'Aulaire, grades 3-5, 920 Lexile
The Adventures of George Washington by Mickie Davidson (Scholastic) grades 3-5
George Washington by Dr. Douglas Bradburn (America's National Parks Press) grade 3-7
The Great Big Wagon That Rang: How the Liberty Bell Was Saved by Joseph Slate, grade 1-2
Paul Revere: Midnight Rider by Ellen Dreyer (McGraw Hill Leveled Books) grades 2-5
Alexander Hamilton: From Orphan to Founding Father by Monica Kulling
(Step into Reading Level 3) grades 1-2
Deborah Sampson Goes to War by Bryna Stevens (A Young Yearling Book) grades 2-4
I Survived the American Revolution, 1776 by Lauren Tarshis (Scholastic) grade 3-5
The American Revolution (America's National Parks Press) grades 3-7+
Carry On, Mr. Bowditch by Jean Lee Latham, 1956 Newberry Award, guided reading Y, gr 6
Documents of Freedom (America's National Parks Press) grades 4-7+
Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes, 1944 Newberry Award, mostly good reviews, which shows
that people have different perspectives and preferences; 840 Lexile, guided reading Z
God's Hand in the Founding of America (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
and The Great Prologue: A Prophetic History and Destiny of America)

Early 1800s

A Picture Book of Thomas Jefferson by David A. Adler, grades 2-3

Thomas Jefferson: Man with a Vision by Ruth Crisman (Scholastic) grades 3-7

Lewis and Clark: A Prairie Dog for the President by Shirley Raye Redmond

(Step into Reading, Level 3) grade 2

Sacajawea: Her True Story by Joyce Milton (Penguin Young Readers, Level 4) grade 2

Seaman's Journal: On the Trail with Lewis and Clark by Patricia Reeder Eubank, grades 2-5

Very engaging and based on the journals.

How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis & Clark by Rosalyn Schanzer,

(National Geographic) grades 3-6, excellent.

Sacagawea by Kitson Jazyuka (National Geographic Kids, Level 3)

A Picture Book of Sacagawea by David A. Adler, grades 3-5+

The Story of Sacajawea by Peter F. Copeland (Dover Coloring) grades 3-6

The Lewis and Clark Expedition coloring book by Peter F. Copeland (Dover) grades 4-7

Johnny Appleseed by Louis Sabin (Troll Associates) abt. John Chapman 1774-1845, grades 2-4

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell, 1961 Newberry Award, (setting 1835-1853),

loved it as a kid. DRA 50, Guided Reading V, grade 5

Astoria: 1811-2011, An Adventure in History; Bicentennial ... grades 5-7+

Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall (Scholastic) grades 2-3 (note clothes) 1980 Caldecott Award

Francis Scott Key's Star-Spangled Banner by Monica Kulling (Step into Reading, Level 3) gr 1-2

A Gathering of Days by Joan Blos, 1980 Newberry Award, 1830s New Hampshire, 960 Lexile

The Slave Ship by Emma Gelders Sterne (Apple Paperbacks) grades 3-7 (setting 1839)

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain (set in the 1840s)

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain (friend of Tom Sawyer)

The Trail of Tears by Joseph Bruchac (Step into Reading, Level 5) grades 3-5 (setting 1831-77)

The Oregon Trail Activities and Coloring download or order for free, great booklet.

<https://www.mthoodterritory.com/oregon-trail-activity-book>

Reading, Writing, & Riding Along the Oregon-California Trails by William E. Hill, grades 4-7+

The Oregon Trail: Pathway of the Great Migration by Ray DiZazzo, grades 5-7+

(1836 first migrants)

Moby Dick by Herman Melville, orig. published 1851 (Dalmatian Press Children's Classic) gr 3-7

Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Brink, 1936 Newberry Award, Wisconsin 1860s, DRA 40, lexile 890

Journey of a Pioneer by Patricia J. Murphy (DK Readers, Level 2) grades 1-2

If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon by Ellen Levine (Scholastic) grades 3-5

Nine for California by Sonia Levitin, grades 3-5, fun.

Going West by Jean Van Leeuwen, grades 2-3

Buffalo Bill and the Pony Express by Eleanor Coerr (I Can Read! Level 3) grade 2 (set 1860-61)

Buffalo Bill by Ingri d'Aulaire, perhaps grades 3-5

Slavery & Civil War

Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave by Laban Carrick Hill, grades 1-2, with more info at the end
Amos Fortune, Free Man by Elizabeth Yates, 1951 Newberry Award, African prince captured & enslaved, earns & purchases freedom (b. 1710, d. 1801) based on a real person, but many details added, mixed reviews, guided reading V, grade 5

The Slave Dancer by Paula Fox, 1974 Newberry Award, 1840s slave ship, 910 Lexile

Harriet Tubman by Grace Norwich (Scholastic I Am series) grades 2-3

Escape North! The Story of Harriet Tubman (Step into Reading Level 4) grades 2-3

The Underground Railroad by Bonnie Bader (Scholastic American Girl) grades 3-4

Frederick Douglass Fights for Freedom by Margaret Davidson, grades 3-5

Frederick Douglass by Barbara Kramer (National Geographic Kids Level 2) grades 1-2

Up from Slavery by Booker T. Washington

Abraham Lincoln by Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce
(Magic Treehouse Fact Tracker) grades 3-4

Long, Tall Lincoln by Jennifer Dussling (I Can Read! Level 2, Guided Reading L) grades 1-2

Abe Lincoln's Hat by Martha Brenner (Step into Reading Level 2) grades 1-2, more info than title

Abraham Lincoln by Caroline Crosson Gilpin (National Geographic Kids Level 2) gr 1-2

Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books by Kay Winters, grades 3-5 or read-aloud

Abraham by Frank Keating, grades 2-4 or read-aloud (beautiful illustrations)

Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman, 1988 Newberry Award, 1040 Lexile

I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863 by Lauren Tarshis (Scholastic) grade 4 reading

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt, grades 5-7+ or read aloud

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane, grades 5-7+

Rifles for Watie by Harold Keith, 1958 Newberry Award, 910 Lexile

Civil War Heroines by Jill Canon (Bellerophon Coloring Book) grades 4-7

Brave Clara Barton by Frank Murphy (Step into Reading Level 3) grades 1-2

Invincible Louisa by Cornelia Meigs, 1934 Newberry winner; grades 5-7+

Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell, Pulitzer Prize, reading level gr 7-12, interest gr 9-12
lexile 1100

Post Civil War era

John Henry: An American Legend by Ezra Jack Keats, grades 2-4 & read-aloud

Coolies by Yin (Puffin Books) grades 3-7

Locomotive by Brian Floca (2014 Caldecott Award winner) ages 4-10, 3rd grade reading

Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder, grades 3-5, favorite as a kid.

Laura Ingalls Wilder, Pioneer Girl by Megan Stine (A Yearling Book) grades 3-5

Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder, grades 3-5

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan, 1986 Newberry Award, grades 3-7; great story.

Women of the West by Rick Steber (Tales of the Wild West vol 5) grades 4-7

Children's Stories by Rick Steber (Tales of the Wild West vol 6) grades 4-7

Miners by Rick Steber (Tales of the Wild West vol 9) grades 4-7

The Luck of Roaring Camp and other Tales by Bret Harte (who lived in the day)

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/6373/6373-h/6373-h>

Cowboys by Rick Steber (Tales of the Wild West vol 4) grades 4-7

The Virginian by Owen Wister (set in the 1870s-1880s; prototype western novel)
The Man on the Iron Horse by Rhoda Davis Wilcox, grades 5-7
Cowboys and Cowgirls Yippee-Yay! By Gail Gibbons, grades 3-5
Cowboys by Lucille Recht Penner, grades 2-3
I Want to Be a Cowboy (Firefly Books) grade 1
Tall in the Saddle by Anne Carter, grades 1-2
Down the Long Hills by Louis L'Amour, grades 5-7+
The Call of the Wild by Jack London, grades 5-7+
Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery, grades 4-7
Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm by Kate Douglas Wiggin, guided reading P, grade 3
Sunder by William Armstrong, 1970 Newberry Award, late 1800s South US, 900 Lexile
The Long Way to a New Land by Joan Sandin (An I Can Read Book Level 3) grades 1-2
Ellis Island by Elizabeth Carney (National Geographic Kids Level 3) grade 2
Listen Up! Alexander Graham Bell's Talking Machine (Step into Reading Level 3) grade 2
Helen Keller by Kitson Jazynka (National Geographic Kids Level 2) grade 2
Who Was Helen Keller? By Gare Thompson, grade 3
Thomas Edison by Barbara Kramer (National Geographic Kids Level 2) grade 2
Thomas Edison: Lighting the Way by Lori Haskins Houran (I Can Read! Level 2) grade 2
Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (1999 Caldecott Award), ages 4-7, gr 2-4 reading
George Washington Carver by Kitson Jazynka (National Geographic Kids Level 1) grades 1-2
I Survived The Children's Blizzard, 1888 by Lauren Tarshis (Scholastic), grades 3-5
Take a Hike, Teddy Roosevelt! By Frank Murphy (Step into Reading Level 3) grades 1-2
Susan B. Anthony: Fighter for Women's Rights by Deborah Hopkinson
(Ready to Read Level 3) gr 2
Susan B. Anthony: Her Fight for Equal Rights by Monica Kulling (Step into Reading Level 2) gr 1
Roller Skates by Ruth Sawyer, 1937 Newberry Award, NYC 1890s, lexile 810, grade 5

Early 1900s

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith, Brooklyn immigrants, early 1900s; guided reading Z+
Grades 6-12
Strawberry Girl by Lois Lenski, 1946 Newberry Award, 10 yr old in early 1800s Florida, 650 Lexile
The Complete Works of O. Henry
The Call of the Wild by Jack London <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/215/215-h/215-h.htm>
Riders of the Purple Sage by Zane Grey (shaped the formula of popular Western genre)
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum, lexile 1030, 8-12 years, grades 3-7
Tarzan of the Apes by Edgar Rice Burroughs; 1270 lexile, grades 6-8
Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say (1994 Caldecott Award winner) ages 4-8, gr 3 reading
The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. du Bois, reading level grade 10, interest grade 7-12
The History of Standard Oil by Ida Tarbell
The Jungle by Upton Sinclair, reading level grades 6-8, interest grades 6-12
Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear by Lindsay Mattick
(2016 Caldecott Award winner) ages 5-6 yrs, 2nd grade reading
New Hampshire by Robert Frost (Pulitzer Prize anthology of poetry)
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald, about the Jazz Age (1920s) wealth, ambition

The Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett, set in San Francisco 1920s, detective novel
The Boxcar Children series by Gertrude Chandler Warner, set in the 1920s-30s originally,
for grades 2-6
Waterless Mountain by Laura Adams Armer, 1932 Newberry winner, Navajo boy; Lexile 860
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor, 1977 Newberry Award, 1930s southern US,
920 Lexile
Thimble Summer by Elizabeth Enright, 1939 Newberry Award, 1930s Wisconsin; 810 Lexile
Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool, 2011 Newberry Award, 1936 Kansas, 800 Lexile
A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck, 2001 Newberry Award, 1937 Illinois, 670 Lexile
Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse, 1998 Newberry Award, Depression Oklahoma, poems, 1040L
Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Curtis, 2000 Newberry Award, Depression Michigan, 950 Lexile
Dust for Dinner by Ann Turner (I Can Read! Level 3) grade 2
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck, set in the Great Depression, Lexile varies up to 1200,
interest 9+
For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway, set in Spanish Civil War 1936-1939, Lexile 840,
grades 9-12
Native Son by Richard Wright, set in Chicago 1930s segregation; Lexile 700, interest gr 9-12
Babe Ruth Saves Baseball! By Frank Murphy (Step into Reading Level 3) grade 2
Eat My Dust! Henry Ford's First Race by Monica Kulling (Step into Reading Level 3) grade 2
Twentieth Century America for Kids by Keith Goodman (the English Reading Tree) grades 4-7,
and reference
Albert Einstein by Grace Norwich (Scholastic I Am series) grades 3-5
Amelia Earhart by Caroline Crosson Gilpin (National Geographic Kids Level 1) grades 1-2
Betsy-Tacy by Maud Hart Lovelace, grades 3-4 (ages 7-10; two best friends, girls)
"No, Agatha!" by Rachel Isadora, grades 1-2, Agatha is quite the character!
Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Paterson, 1981 Newberry Award, 1940s Chesapeake Bay, 880L

WWII

Anne Frank by Alexandra Zapruder (National Geographic Kids, Level 3) grades 2-4
Eleanor Roosevelt by Macy Stevens, grade 1-2
I Survived the Bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941 by Lauren Tarshis, grades 3-4
I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944, by Lauren Tarshis, grades 3-4
The Cay by Theodore Taylor, grades 4-7
The Big Lie: A True Story by Isabella Leitner (Scholastic), grades 3-5
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry, 1990 Newberry Award, 1943 Denmark, 670 Lexile
Year of Impossible Goodbyes by Sook Nyul Choi (A Yearling Book), grades 4-7+
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr (A Yearling Book) grades 3-4
Miracles on Maple Hill by Virginia Sorenson, 1957 Newberry Award, guided reading R, gr 4

Civil Rights

A Girl Named Rosa: The True Story of Rosa Parks by Denise Lewis Patrick (American Girl),
grades 2-5
Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story by Ruby Bridges (Scholastic Level 2), grade 2
Civil Rights in America by Rick Beard (America's National Parks Press) grades 5-7

The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander (2020 Caldecott Award winner) gr 1-4 reading
The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis, grades 4-7
Martin Luther King, Jr by Kitson Jazynka (National Geographic Kids Level 3) grades 2-3
Martin Luther King Jr.: A Peaceful Leader by Sarah Albee (I Can Read! Level 2, w/help)
I Am Martin Luther King, Jr. by Brad Meltzer (People Who Changed the World) grades 2-4
My Little Golden Book About Martin Luther King Jr. by Bonnie Bader (Little Golden Book)
Grades 2-4

1950s to the present

Getting Around Through the Years by Clare Lewis (History in Living Memory) grades 1-2
So You Want to Be President? By Judith St. George (2001 Caldecott winner) 7-10 yrs, gr 4 read
Nine Days to Christmas by Marie Hall Ets (1960 Caldecott Award winner) 6-10 yrs, gr 2-3 to read
„And Now Miguel by Joseph Krungold, 1954 Newberry Award, 1950s New Mexico
shepherders, guided reading Z, grade 7-8
The Lone Ranger by Steffi Fletcher, grades 2-3
Henry Huggins by Beverly Cleary, grades 3-4
Henry Reed Inc. by Keith Robertson, grades 3-7
Onion John by Joseph Krungold, 1960 Newberry Award, 1950s New Jersey, 710 Lexile
Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata, 2005 Newberry Award, Georgia 50s-60s, 740 Lexile
It's Like this, Cat by Emily Neville, 1964 Newberry Award, New York 1960s, 810 Lexile
Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins, 2006 Newberry Award, small town 60s, no sex or violence, but
some language, smoking/drinking/drugs according to commonsensemedia.org, 820L
Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos, 2012 Newberry, 1962 PA, humor, semi-autobio, 920L
Walt Disney by Barbara Kramer (National Geographic Kids Level 3) grade 2-3
Dr. Seuss the Great Doodler by Kate Klimo (Step into Reading Level 3) grade 2
Mother Teresa by Barbara Kramer (National Geographic Kids Level 1) grade 1-2
Up a Road Slowly by Irene Hunt, 1967 Newberry Award, 1940s Midwest, 1060 Lexile
The Extraordinary Life of Neil Armstrong by Martin Howard, grades 3-5
Apollo 11: Mission to the Moon by Courtney Acampora (Smithsonian Level 2) grades 2-3
The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Mordicai Gerstein (2004) ages 5-8, gr 3 reading
Smoky Night by Eve Bunting (1995 Caldecott Award winner) ages 5-9, 2nd grade reading
The Extraordinary Life of Stephen Hawking by Kate Scott, grades 3-5
Going for Goldberg by Michael Teitelbaum (DK Level 4 reading) grades 3-6
Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat by Javaka Steptoe
(2017 Caldecott Award winner) ages 4-8, grade 6+ reading
A Girl Named Misty by Kelly Starling Lyons (American Girl) grades 2-3
I Survived the Joplin Tornado, 2011 by Lauren Tarshis (Scholastic) grades 3-5