

Historical Fiction for Hipsters (guaranteed NOT to put you to sleep!)

Bruchac, Joseph. Code Talker. After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue. **YA FIC BRU**

Carbone, Elisa. Last Dance on Holladay Street. In 1878, thirteen-year-old Eva seeks her birth mother in Colorado, only to find the city and her mother are not what she imagined. **YA FIC CAR**

Carbone, Elisa. Storm Warriors. In 1895, after his mother's death, twelve-year-old Nathan moves with his father and grandfather to Pea Island off the coast of North Carolina, where he hopes to join the all-black crew at the nearby lifesaving station, despite his father's objections. Full of daring rescues during wild and stormy nights!
JH CAR

Chevalier, Tracy. Girl with a Pearl Earring. *Girl with a Pearl Earring* centers on Vermeer's prosperous Delft household during the 1660s. When Griet, the novel's quietly perceptive heroine, is hired as a servant, turmoil follows. First, the 16-year-old narrator becomes increasingly intimate with her master. Then Vermeer employs her as his assistant--and ultimately has Griet sit for him as a model. **YA FIC CHE**

Dines, Carol. Queen's Soprano. Seventeen year-old Angelica Voglia lives in seventeenth-century Rome and has the voice of an angel, but because the pope forbids women to sing in public, she must escape to Queen Christina's palace to become a court singer. **YA FIC DIN**

Donnelly, Jennifer. A Northern Light. In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story, this 2004 Printz-award honor book, is historical fiction at it's very best.
YA FIC DON

Draper, Sharon. Copper Sun. This powerful story shows the journey of Amari, 15, from her Ashanti village into slavery in America, balancing the vicious specifics with her ferocious survivor's spirit. **YA FIC DRA**

Geras, Adele. Troy. This is a cool retelling of the Illiad from the female teen's point of view. The last weeks of the Trojan War are portrayed, when women are sick of tending the wounded, men are tired of fighting, and bored gods and goddesses find ways to stir things up. **YA FIC GER**

Graber, Janet. Resistance. In German-occupied Normandy, France, fifteen-year-old Marianne worries that her mother is exposing the family, especially Marianne's deaf younger brother, to great danger by volunteering for more perilous assignments in the resistance movement. **YA FIC GRA**

Hearne, Julie. Minister's Daughter. In 1645 in England, the daughters of the town minister successfully accuse a local healer and her granddaughter of witchcraft to conceal an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, but years later during the 1692 Salem trials their lie has unexpected repercussions. **YA FIC HEA**

Hess, Karen. Witness. Twelve year old African American Leonora Sutter is running scared. A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town. Besides being a wonderfully deep examination of racism and identity, Witness is also a great history mystery. **j HES 4**

Heuston, Kimberly. Dante's Daughter. The protagonist is a strong young woman who chooses her own way. The setting is early fourteenth-century Italy and France, and the narrator is Antonia Alighieri, the daughter of the great writer Dante. The story begins when Antonia, five years old, is at home with her bitter, abandoned mother. It then follows her as a young teen in Paris with her brilliant, self-absorbed father, and culminates after she returns to the artistic family-community in Siena, Italy, where she struggles to find work, love, and independence. **YA FIC HEU**

Ingold, Jeanette. Hitch. To help his family during the Depression and avoid becoming a drunk like his father, Moss Trawnley joins the Civilian Conservation Corps, helps build a new camp near Monroe, Montana, and leads the other men in making the camp a success. **YA FIC ING**

Jansen, Hanna. Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You. Eight-year-old Jeanne was the only one of her family to survive the 1994 Rwanda genocide. Then a German family adopted her, and her adoptive mother now tells Jeanne's story in a compelling fictionalized biography that stays true to the traumatized child's bewildered viewpoint. **YA FIC JAN**

Kerr, M. E. Your Eyes in Stars. Secrets, intimate and political, drive the plot in Kerr's haunting novel of Germans and Americans, Jews and Gentiles, living in a small town in New York State during the Depression. **YA FIC KER**

Lawlor, Laurie. Two Loves of Will Shakespeare. After falling in love, eighteen-year-old Will Shakespeare, a bored apprentice in his father's glove business and often in trouble for various misdeeds, vows to live an upstanding life and pursue his passion for writing. **YA FIC LAW**

Mazer, Harry. Heroes Don't Run. To honor his father who died during the Japanese invasion of Pearl Harbor, seventeen-year-old Adam eagerly enlists in the Marines in 1944, survives boot camp, and faces combat on the tiny island of Okinawa. **YA FIC MAZ**

Mosley, Walter. 47. Number 47, a fourteen-year-old slave boy growing up under the watchful eye of a brutal master in 1832, meets the mysterious Tall John, who introduces him to a magical science and also teaches him the meaning of freedom. **YA FIC MOS**

Napoli, Donna Jo. Daughter of Venice. Frustrated with the restrictions her gender imposes on her life, fourteen-year-old Donata, disguised as a boy, sneaks out of her noble family's house to roam the streets of late sixteenth-century Venice and then must confront the repercussions of her actions. **YA FIC NAP**

Napoli, Donna Jo. Fire in the Hills. Upon returning to Italy, fourteen-year-old Roberto struggles to survive, first on his own, then as a member of the resistance, fighting against the Nazi occupiers while yearning to reach home safely and for an end to the war. Sequel to Stones in Water. **YA FIC NAP**

Napoli, Donna Jo. Stones in Water. After being taken by German soldiers from a local movie theater along with other Italian boys including his Jewish friend, Roberto is forced to toil in German work camps, escapes into the Ukrainian winter, before desperately trying to make his way back home to Venice. Brutal and compelling, this is an amazing story of strength and friendship with lots of harsh landscape living thrown in. **JH NAP**

Newth, Mette. The Transformation. In the 15th century, young Irish monk Brendan has been sent by the Catholic Church to a lonely missionary outpost in Greenland, where he and his colleagues are expected to turn the native people onto Christ and away from their wicked ways. But life is hard, and Navarana, an Inuit shaman, saves Brendan's life. The two are sent on a mission together to find food. Transformation is a cracking good adventure, with danger around every ice floe. **YA FIC NEW**

Nolan, Han. Summer of Kings. Over the course of the summer of 1963, fourteen-year-old Esther Young discovers the passion within her when eighteen-year-old King-Roy Johnson, accused of murdering a white man in Alabama, comes to live with her family. **YA FIC NOL**

Rees, Celia. Pirates! In 1722, after arriving with her brother at the family's Jamaican plantation where she is to be married off, sixteen-year-old Nancy Kington escapes with her slave friend, Minerva Sharpe, and together they become pirates traveling the world in search of treasure. Read a riveting, full-speed adventure filled with girl-powered action, magic, and love, even as it explores the brutality and horror of dark historical times.
JH REE

Rees, Celia. Witch Child. In 1659, fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans near Salem, Massachusetts. This is one witch story that will keep you riveted! **JH REE**

Richardson, V. A. The House of Windjammer. In the fall of 1636, Adam, fourteen-year-old heir to the House of Windjammer, must find a way to keep his family afloat after his father dies and tulip fever sweeps Amsterdam. As Adam tries to divine who and what conspire to change his life, readers will eagerly turn pages to find out right along with him. Look for a sequel of more action-filled adventures. **YA FIC RIC**

Roy, Jennifer. Yellow Star. From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation. **YA FIC ROY**

Rylant, Cynthia. I Had Seen Castles. Now an old man, John is haunted by memories of enlisting to fight in World War II, a decision which forced him to face the horrors of war and changed his life forever. A love story, a coming-of-age tale, a book with a passionate anti-war message, this slim book is not to be missed. **YA FIC RYL**

Salisbury, Graham. Eyes of the Emperor. Eddie Okubo, 16, a Japanese American in Hawaii, lies about his age and enlists in the U.S. Army during World War II, but the racism he encounters in the army is as terrifying as enemy fire. **YA FIC SAL**

Salisbury, Graham. Under the Blood-Red Sun. Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Sequel is **House of the Red Fish.** **JH SAL**

Spinelli, Jerry. Milkweed. Yes, here's another Holocaust story, but this one has images to haunt you forever. Misha is an orphan in the Warsaw ghetto who can't remember his real name, who his parents were, or where he was born. Is he Jew or gypsy? He is shockingly naïve and, only when most of his gang of orphan friends have been killed or deported, does he plan his escape. **JH SPI**

Trottier, Maxine. 3 Songs for Courage. Erie View, Ontario, 1956, is the setting for this coming-of-age story about love, brotherhood, and revenge. It is reminiscent of Jimmy Dean in "Rebel without a Cause."

Whelan, Gloria. Summer of the War. Fourteen-year-old Belle resents the presence of her sophisticated cousin on a family vacation in the summer of 1942, but their strained relationship is overshadowed by the war in Europe. **YA FIC WHE**

Wilson, Diane. Black Storm Comin'. Combining galloping adventure with terror, this story of a mixed-race teen who joins the Pony Express takes readers back to the West as it was in 1860. **YA FIC WIL**

Zuzak, Marcus. Book Thief. Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. **JH ZUZ**

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