

Ripper

By Stefan Petrucha

Adopted by famous Pinkerton Agency Detective Hawking in 1895 New York, fourteen-year-old Carver Young hopes to find his birth father, but when he becomes involved in the pursuit of notorious killer Jack the Ripper, Carver discovers that finding the truth can be worse than ignorance.

Loving Vs. Virginia

By Patricia Hruby Powell

Written in blank verse, the story of Mildred Loving, an African American girl, and Richard Loving, a Caucasian boy, who challenge the Virginia law forbidding interracial marriages in the 1950s.

Love In Greenwood

By Randi Pink

Angel Hill, sixteen, and Isaiah Wilson, seventeen, attend the same African American school in 1921 Tulsa, Oklahoma, but don't hang around in the same circles until a job working for a mobile library brings them together.

Here Lies Arthur

By Philip Reeve

When her village is attacked and burned, Gwynna seeks protection from the bard Myrddin, who uses Gwynna in his plan to transform young Arthur into the heroic King Arthur.

Esperanza Rising

By Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

The Hired Girl

By Laura Amy Schlitz

Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs chronicles her life in a journal when she leaves her family's farm in Pennsylvania to work as a hired girl in Baltimore in the summer of 1911.

I Must Betray You

By Ruta Sepetys

In a country governed by isolation, fear, and a tyrannical dictator, seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, but he decides to use his position to try to outwit his handler, undermine the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country.

The Berlin Boxing Club

By Rob Sharenow

In 1936 Berlin, fourteen-year-old Karl Stern, considered Jewish despite a non-religious upbringing, learns to box from the legendary Max Schmeling while struggling with the realities of the Holocaust.

Code Name Verity

By Elizabeth Wein

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

We encourage readers to be informed about the titles they are reading. Commonsensemedia.org is a great resource to help you decide if a book is right for you.

HISTORICAL FICTION FOR TEENS



springville library

HISTORICAL FICTION FOR TEENS

If Looks Could Kill

By Julie Berry

While conducting volunteer work in Manhattan in 1888, eighteen-year-old Tabitha and Pearl's fates intertwine with Jack the Ripper as he is hunted by the Gorgon Medusa.

Prisoner of Night and Fog

By Anne Blankman

In 1930s Munich, the favorite niece of rising political leader Adolph Hitler is torn between duty and love after meeting a fearless and handsome young Jewish reporter.

The Boy In The Striped Pajamas

By John Boyne

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

The Game of Love and Death

By Martha Brockenbrough

In Seattle in 1937 two seventeen-year-olds, Henry, who is white, and Flora, who is African-American, become the unwitting pawns in a game played by two immortal figures, Love and Death, where they must choose each other at the end, or one of them will die.

Revolution

By Jennifer Donnelly

An angry, grieving seventeen-year-old musician facing expulsion from her prestigious Brooklyn private school travels to Paris to complete a school assignment and uncovers a diary written during the French revolution by a young actress attempting to help a tortured, imprisoned little boy--Louis Charles, the lost king of France.

Copper Sun

By Sharon Draper

Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

Annie, Between The States

By L.M. Elliott

Instead of spending her teen years at parties and balls, Annie, an idealistic, poetry-loving patriot, finds herself nursing soldiers, hiding valuables, and running the household as the Civil War rages around her family's Virginia home.

The Luxe

By Anna Godbersen

In Manhattan in 1899, five teens of different social classes lead dangerously scandalous lives, despite the strict rules of society and the best-laid plans of parents and others.

The Brightwood Code

By Monica Hesse

A cryptic message forces eighteen-year-old American Edda to investigate what secrets followed her across the ocean, even as she tries to make sense of her time as a telephone operator on the French front lines of World War I.

Behind Five Willows

By June Hur

Set in eighteenth-century Korea, two teens secretly waging a war against government book banning find themselves irresistibly drawn together.

Adventures of Mary Jane

By Hope Jahren

Before meeting Huckleberry Finn, Mary Jane faces deadly illness, treacherous landowners, and swindlers as she goes on her own thrilling journey down the Mississippi in pre-Civil War America.

Under a Painted Sky

By Stacey Lee

In 1845, Sammy, a Chinese American girl, and Annamae, an African American slave girl, disguise themselves as boys and travel on the Oregon Trail to California from Missouri.

Never Fall Down

By Patricia McCormick

Cambodian child soldier Arn Chorn-Pond defied the odds and used all of his courage and wits to survive the murderous regime of the Khmer Rouge.

Under The Fire-Red Sky

By Geraldine McCaughrean

With World War II on their doorstep, four teens evade evacuation and remain in London, attempting to aid the Fire Service and keep each other safe during the Blitz.

Anastasia and Her Sisters

By Carolyn Meyer

A novel in diary form in which the youngest daughter of Czar Nicholas II describes the privileged life her family led up until the time of World War I and the tragic events that befell them.