

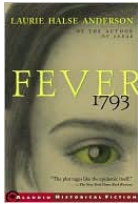
Young Adult Historical Fiction

Updated: by Kara Pearson 5/09

Young Adult Historical Fiction

Historical fiction titles appropriate for young adults

Pre-1800



Place hold

Fever 1793

By Laurie Halse Anderson

Call #: YF Anderson

In 1793 Philadelphia, 16-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.



Place hold

The Shakespeare Stealer

By Gary Blackwood

Call #: YF Blackwood

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.



Place hold

Alphabet of Dreams

By Susan Fletcher

Call #: YF Fletcher

14-year-old Mitra, of royal Persian lineage, and her 5-year-old brother Babak, whose dreams foretell the future, flee for their lives traveling through Persia as they follow star signs leading to a newly-born king in Bethlehem.



Place hold

The Minister's Daughter

By Julie Hearn

Call #: YF Hearn

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.



Place hold

The Way of the Warrior

By Andrew Matthews

Call #: YF Matthews

Stricken by the injustice of his father's death, Jimmu is left to care for his family. He decides to train as a samurai warrior and vows to one day avenge his father's death by killing Lord Ankan.



Place hold

Bloody Jack

By L.A. Meyer

Call #: YF Meyer

Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a 13-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.



Place hold

Frontier Wolf

By Rosemary Sutcliff

Call #: YF Sutcliff

As punishment for his poor judgment, a young, inexperienced Roman army officer is sent to Northern England to assume the command of a motley group known as the Frontier Wolves.



Place hold

Girl in a Cage

By Jane Yolen

Call #: YF Yolen

As English armies invade Scotland in 1306, eleven-year-old Princess Marjorie, daughter of the newly crowned Scottish king, Robert the Bruce, is captured by England's King Edward Longshanks and held in a cage on public display.

Revolutionary War



Place hold

The Year of the Hangman

By Gary Blackwood

Call #: YF Blackwood

In 1777, having been kidnapped and taken forcibly from England to the American colonies, 15-year-old Creighton becomes part of developments in the political unrest that may spell defeat for the patriots and change the course of history.



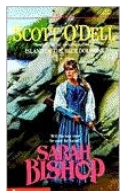
Place hold

My Brother Sam is Dead

By James Lincoln Collier

Call #: YF Collier

Tragedy strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.



Place hold

Sarah Bishop

By Scott O'Dell

Call #: YF O'Dell

Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother who take opposite sides in the War for Independence, and fleeing from the British who seek to arrest her, Sarah Bishop struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness.



Place hold

A Ride Into Morning

By Ann Rinaldi

Call #: YF Rinaldi

When unrest spreads at the Revolutionary War camp in Morristown, New Jersey, a young woman cleverly hides her horse from the mutinous soldiers who have need of it.



1800s



[Place hold](#)

Airman

By Eoin Colfer

Call #: YF Colfer

In the late 19th century, when Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king, he is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds while he plans a daring escape from Little Saltee prison.



[Place hold](#)

Much Ado About Grubstake

By Jean Ferris

Call #: YF Ferris

When two city folks arrive in the depressed mining town of Grubstake, Colorado in 1888, sixteen-year-old orphaned Arley tries to discover why they want to buy the supposedly worthless mines in the area.



[Place hold](#)

The Shakeress

By Kimberley Heuston

Call #: YF Heuston

While searching for a way to meet the needs of her personal sense of spirituality, an orphaned teenaged girl joins a Shaker community in mid-19th century New England and learns about a new religion called Mormonism.



[Place hold](#)

The True Adventures of Charley Darwin

By Carolyn Meyer

Call #: YF Meyer

In 19th century England, young Charles Darwin rejects the more traditional careers of physician and clergyman, choosing instead to embark on a dangerous five-year journey by ship to explore the natural world.



[Place hold](#)

Summer of the Monkeys

By Wilson Rawls

Call #: YF Rawls

In the late 1800s, a 14-year-old Ozark mountain boy spends the summer trying to recapture monkeys escaped from a traveling circus.



[Place hold](#)

Anahita's Woven Riddle

By Meghan Nuttall Sayres

Call #: YF Sayres

In Iran, more than 100 years ago, a young girl with three suitors gets permission from her father and a holy man to weave into her wedding rug a riddle to be solved by her future husband, which will ensure that he has wit to match hers.

Civil War



[Place hold](#)

The Red Badge of Courage

By Stephen Crane

Call #: YF Crane

During his service in the Civil War, a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.





Place hold

Annie, Between the States

By Laura Elliott

Call #: YF Elliott

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



Place hold

Soldier's Heart

By Gary Paulsen

Call #: YF Paulsen

Eager to enlist, 15-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.



Place hold

Come Juneteenth

By Ann Rinaldi

Call #: YF Rinaldi

14-year-old Luli and her family face tragedy after failing to tell their slaves that President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation made them free.

1900s



Place hold

SOS Titanic

By Eve Bunting

Call #: YF Bunting

15-year-old Barry O'Neill, traveling from Ireland to America on the maiden voyage of the *Titanic*, finds his life endangered when the ship hits an iceberg and begins to sink.



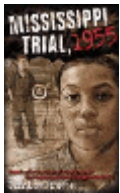
Place hold

Al Capone Does My Shirts

By Jennifer Choldenko

Call #: YF Choldenko

A 12-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.



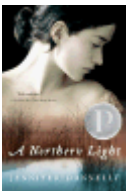
Place hold

Mississippi Trial 1955

By Chris Crowe

Call #: YF Crowe

In Mississippi in 1955, a 16-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a teenaged African American from Chicago.



Place hold

A Northern Light

By Jennifer Donnelly

Call #: YF Donnelly

In 1906, 16-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiance, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story.



World War I



[Place hold](#)

Remembrance

By Teresa Breslin

Call #: YF Breslin

The destinies of two Scottish families, one of shopkeepers and one of wealth and power, become entwined through their involvement in World War I, social causes, and love.



[Place hold](#)

Private Peaceful

By Michael Morpurgo

Call #: YF Morpurgo

When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British Army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only 14 years old.

World War II



[Place hold](#)

Code Talker

By Joseph Bruchac

Call #: YF Bruchac

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites, 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.



[Place hold](#)

The Power of One

By Bryce Courtenay

Call #: YF Courtenay

This story follows Peekay, a white British boy in South Africa during World War II, between the ages of five and eleven, as he survives an abusive boarding school and goes on to succeed in life and the boxing ring.



[Place hold](#)

Weedflower

By Cynthia Kadohata

Call #: YF Kadohata

After Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their farm in southern California to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she becomes interested in a local Indian boy and dreams of owning a flower shop.



[Place hold](#)

On the Wings of Heroes

By Richard Peck

Call #: YF Peck

A boy in Illinois remembers the homefront years of World War II, especially his two heroes--his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war.



Place hold

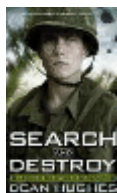
The Book Thief

By Markus Zusak

Call #: YF Zusak

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.

Vietnam War



Place hold

Search and Destroy

By Dean Hughes

Call #: YF Hughes

Recent high school graduate Rick Ward, undecided about his future and eager to escape his unhappy home life, joins the army and experiences the horrors of the war in Vietnam.



Place hold

Fallen Angels

By Walter Dean Myers

Call #: YF Myers

17-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.