

# Historical Fiction For Teens

## **Booth's Daughter by Raymond Wemmlinger**

In nineteenth-century New York City, Edwina, daughter of the famous actor Edwin Booth and niece of John Wilkes Booth, finds it difficult to escape the family tragedy and to meet the needs of a demanding father while maintaining her independence.

**(19<sup>th</sup> Century Life)**

## **Black Storm Comin' by Diane Lee Wilson**

Twelve-year-old Colton, son of a black mother and a white father, takes a job with the Pony Express in 1860 after his father abandons the family on their California-bound wagon train, and risks his life to deliver an important letter that may affect the growing conflict between the North and South.

**(Frontier/Pioneer Life)**

## **When My Name Was Keoko by Linda Sue Park**

With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.

**(WWII)**

## **Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson**

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

**(Frontier/Pioneer Life)**

## **Monkey Town by Ronald Kidd**

When her father hatches a plan to bring publicity to their small Tennessee town by arresting a local high school teacher for teaching about evolution, the resulting 1925 Scopes trial prompts fifteen-year-old Frances to rethink many of her beliefs about religion and truth, as well as her relationship with her father.

**(Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century)**

## **Brooklyn Rose by Ann Rinaldi**

On St. Helena Island, South Carolina, fifteen year-old Rose meets and marries Rene, a Yankee from Brooklyn, New York, who takes her north to his home where she encounters many differences in attitudes and lifestyles.

**(Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century)**

## **Black Duck by Janet Taylor Lisle**

Years afterwards, Ruben Hart tells the story of how, in 1929 Newport, Rhode Island, his family and his best friend's family were caught up in the violent competition among groups trying to control the local rum-smuggling trade.

**(Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century)**

## **Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers**

Seventeen-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.

**(Vietnam War)**

**List compiled by Alexandra Blau  
Westbury Memorial Public Library  
[www.westburylibrary.org](http://www.westburylibrary.org)**



**Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi**

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.  
**(Middle Ages)**

**Blood Red Horse by K.M. Grant.**

A special horse named Hosanna changes the lives of two English brothers and those around them as they fight with King Richard I against Saladin's armies during the Third Crusades.  
**(Crusades/Middle Ages)**

**Witch Child by Celia Rees**

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.  
**(Colonial America/Salem Witch Trials)**

**Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson**

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.  
**(Yellow Fever/Survival)**

**Day of Tears by Julius Lester**

Emma has taken care of the Butler children since Sarah and Frances's mother, Fanny, left. Emma wants to raise the girls to have good hearts, as a rift over slavery has ripped the Butler household apart. Now, to pay off debts, Pierce Butler wants to cash in his slave "assets", possibly including Emma.  
**(Slavery)**

**Red Moon at Sharpsburg by Rosemary Wells**

As the Civil War breaks out, India, a young Southern girl, summons her sharp intelligence and the courage she didn't know she had to survive the war that threatens to destroy her family, her Virginia home, and the only life she has ever known.  
**(Civil War)**

**Girl in Blue by Ann Rinaldi**

To escape an abusive father and an arranged marriage, fourteen-year-old Sarah, dressed as a boy, leaves her Michigan home to enlist in the Union Army, and becomes a soldier on the battlefields of Virginia as well as a Union spy in Washington, D.C.  
**(Civil War)**

**The River Between us by Richard Peck**

During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois.  
**(Civil War)**

**Soldier's Heart by Gary Paulsen**

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

**Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli**

A street child, known to himself only as Stopthief, finds community when he is taken in by a band of orphans in Warsaw ghetto which helps him weather the horrors of the Nazi regime.  
**(Holocaust /WWII)**

**Private Peaceful by Michael 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 fourteen years old, to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love, Molly, and himself.  
**(WWI)**

**The Book Thief by Markus 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, as well as their neighbors.  
**(WWII)**

**Stones in Water by Donna Jo Napoli**

After being taken by German soldiers from a local movie theater along with other Italian boys including his Jewish friend, Roberto is forced to work in Germany, escapes into the Ukrainian winter, before desperately trying to make his way back home to Venice.  
**(WWII, Survival)**

**The Land by Mildred D. Taylor**

After the Civil War Paul, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between the two worlds of colored folks and white folks as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own.  
**(19<sup>th</sup> Century Life)**