

Literary Genre Bibliography: Historical Fiction

Grades K-2

Wheeler, Eliza. **Home in the Woods**. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-399-16290-9.

Summary: Eliza Wheeler's gorgeously illustrated book tells the story of what happens when six-year-old Marvel, her seven siblings, and their mom must start all over again after their father has died. Deep in the woods of Wisconsin they find a tar-paper shack. It doesn't seem like much of a home, but they soon start seeing what it could be. During their first year it's a struggle to maintain the shack and make sure they have enough to eat. But each season also brings its own delights and blessings--and the children always find a way to have fun. Most importantly, the family finds immense joy in being together, surrounded by nature. And slowly, their little shack starts feeling like a true home--warm, bright, and filled up with love. (Publisher Info)

Curricular use: RL.2.5 Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.

Audience: Great read aloud for all ages.

Luby, Brittany. **Encounter**. Little, Brown and Company, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-316-44918-2.

Summary: Based on the real journal kept by French explorer Jacques Cartier in 1534, *Encounter* imagines a first meeting between a French sailor and a Stadaconan fisher. As they navigate their differences, the wise animals around them note their similarities, illuminating common ground. This extraordinary imagining by Brittany Luby, Professor of Indigenous History, is paired with stunning art by Michaela Goade, winner of 2018 American Indian Youth Literature Best Picture Book Award. *Encounter* is a luminous telling from two Indigenous creators that invites readers to reckon with the past, and to welcome, together, a future that is yet uncharted. (Publisher Info)

Curricular use: RL.2.6 Acknowledge differences in the points of view (perspective) of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.

Audience: Kindergarten to second grade.

Grades 3-4

Moskowitz-Sweet, Gloria. **It rained warm bread : Moische Moskowitz's story of hope**. Henry Holt and Company, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-25016-572-5.

Summary: Moische was thirteen when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939 and he was sent to Auschwitz. His home was ravaged, his family torn apart by illness and abduction. Years of brutality drew on as Moische moved from one labor camp to the next. Finally, towards the end of the war and at the peak of Moische's deepest despair, a simple act of kindness by a group of courageous Czech women redeemed his faith that goodness could survive the trials of war: That was the day it rained warm bread. Deftly articulated and beautifully illustrated, this is a strong addition to the ever-important genre of Holocaust testimonies. (Publisher Info)

Curricular use: RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

Audience: A straightforward and short book great for reluctant readers.

Tucker, Laura. **All the Greys on Greene Street**. Puffin Books, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-451-47955-6.

Summary: SoHo, 1981. Twelve-year-old Olympia is an artist--and in her neighborhood, that's normal. Her dad and his business partner Apollo bring antique paintings back to life, while her mother makes intricate sculptures in a corner of their loft, leaving Ollie to roam the streets of New York with her best friends Richard and Alex, drawing everything that catches her eye. Then everything falls apart. Ollie's dad disappears in the middle of the night, leaving her only a cryptic note and instructions to destroy it. Her mom has gone to bed, and she's not getting up. Apollo is hiding something, Alex is acting strange, and Richard has questions about the mysterious stranger he saw outside. And someone keeps calling, looking for a missing piece of art. . . . Olympia knows her dad is the key--but first, she has to find him, and time is running out. (Publisher Info)

Curricular use: RL.4.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

Audience: Readers who enjoy historical fiction, realistic fiction, and/or mysteries.

Grades 5-6

Allen, Kate. **The Line Tender**. Dutton Children's Books, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-7352-3160-3.

Summary: Wherever the sharks led, Lucy Everhart's marine-biologist mother was sure to follow. In fact, she was on a boat far off the coast of Massachusetts, collecting shark data when she died suddenly. Lucy was seven. Since then Lucy and her father have kept their heads above water--thanks in large part to a few close friends and neighbors. But June of her twelfth summer brings more than the end of school and a heat wave to sleepy Rockport. On one steamy day, the tide brings a great white--and then another tragedy, cutting short a friendship everyone insists was "meaningful" but no one can tell Lucy what it all meant. To survive the fresh wave of grief, Lucy must grab the line that connects her depressed father, a stubborn fisherman, and a curious old widower to her mother's unfinished research on the Great White's return to Cape Cod. If Lucy can find a way to help this unlikely quartet follow the sharks her mother loved, she'll finally be able to look beyond what she's lost and toward what's left to be discovered. (Publisher Info)

Curricular use: RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

Audience: A great book for all readers.

Nagai, Mariko. **Under the Broken Sky**. Henry Holt and Company, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-25015-921-2.

Summary: A beautifully told middle-grade novel-in-verse about a Japanese orphan's experience in occupied rural Manchuria during World War II. Twelve-year-old Natsu and her family live a quiet farm life in Manchuria, near the border of the Soviet Union. But the life they've known begins to unravel when her father is recruited to the Japanese army, and Natsu and her little sister, Cricket, are left orphaned and destitute. In a desperate move to keep her sister alive, Natsu sells Cricket to a Russian family following the 1945 Soviet occupation. The journey to redemption for Natsu's broken family is rife with struggles, but Natsu is tenacious and will stop at nothing to get her little sister back. Literary and historically insightful, this is one of the great untold stories of WWII. Much like the Newbery Honor book *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai, Mariko Nagai's *Under the Broken Sky* is powerful, poignant, and ultimately hopeful. (Publisher Info)

Curricular use: RL.6.5 Explain major differences between poems, drama, and prose, and refer to the structural elements of poems (e.g., verse, rhythm, meter) and drama (e.g., casts of characters, settings, descriptions, dialogue, stage directions) when writing or speaking about a text.

Audience: Fans *Inside Out and Back Again*, and/or fans of little known stories from history.