

Children's Literature Featuring Letters, Diaries and Journals

An Annotated Bibliography of Biography, Historical Fiction and Nonfiction

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Biography

JOHN ADAMS

Harness, Cheryl. *The Revolutionary John Adams*

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2003; 40 pages.

This biography of John Adams also provides a window on colonial Boston, the Constitutional Congress and the War for Independence. Includes many brief quotes from Adams's diary and letters to his wife, Abigail. With full-color illustrations by the author.

Yoder, Carolyn (editor). *John Adams – The Writer: A Treasury of Letters, Diaries, and Public Documents*

Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2007; 144 pages.

Presents excerpts from John Adams's personal and official correspondence as well as his diaries, speeches and autobiography. An introduction to each selection places it within the framework of Adams's life and career. A brief biography is also included. Illustrated with photographs, prints, paintings and artifacts.

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

McDonough, Yona Zeldis. *Louisa: The Life of Louisa May Alcott*

Illustrated by Bethanne Andersen.

New York: Henry Holt & Company, 2009; 48 pages.

A biography that emphasizes how Alcott drew on her life experiences in writing her novels. Includes many quotes from her letters and journals, with full-color illustrations on every page.

Graves, Kerry A. (editor). *The Girlhood Diary of Louisa May Alcott, 1843-1846: Writings of a Young Author*

Series: *Diaries, Letters, and Memoirs*

Mankato, MN: Blue Earth Books, 2001; 32 pages.

Contains excerpts from Alcott's diary describing her family life, lessons, and experiences on a communal farm in the 1840s. Includes sidebars, activities, and a timeline related to this era. Samples of her poetry are also included, and the book is illustrated with many period photographs. (More books from the same series are listed at the end of this section of the bibliography.)

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

Burleigh, Robert. *Into the Woods: John James Audubon Lives His Dream*

Illustrated by Wendell Minor.

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003; 32 pages.

The text is fairly short and consists of poetry by the author and quotations from Audubon's journals. The vivid and colorful illustrations include many closeups of birds with several examples of Audubon's own artwork. In picture book format.

Davies, Jacqueline. *The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon*

Illustrated by Melissa Sweet.

Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 2004; 30 pages.

This picture book biography centers on Audubon's nature journals and discusses his scientific interests as a young man.

BENJAMIN BANNEKER

Blue, Rose. *Benjamin Banneker: Mathematician and Stargazer*

Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 2001; 48 pages.

Series: *Gateway Biography*

The author acknowledges that the records are incomplete and some things can't be known for sure about Banneker's life. Attention is given to his correspondence with Thomas Jefferson and other primary source material.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Dear Benjamin Banneker*

Illustrated by Brian Pinkney.

San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1994; 32 pages.

An exceptionally beautiful picture book. Covers the main points of Banneker's life and includes quotes from primary sources.

WILLIAM BARTRAM

Ray, Deborah Kogan. *The Flower Hunter: William Bartram, America's First Naturalist*

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004; 32 pages.

Billy Bartram keeps a journal of his experiences and what he learns about the plants of colonial America from his father, John Bartram, as they travel together gathering specimens and planting seeds. With full-color illustrations in picture book format.

RACHEL CARSON

Locker, Thomas and Joseph Bruchac. *Rachel Carson: Preserving a Sense of Wonder*

Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 2004; 32 pages.

This accessible picture book biography is illustrated with Thomas Locker's paintings. The narrative is interspersed with Carson's memorable quotes.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Bolden, Tonya. *George Washington Carver*

New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2008; 40 pages.

This handsome biography features photographs from the period, primary documents, botanical drawings and many quotes from Carver's writings.

AMELIA EARHART

Tanaka, Shelley. *Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator*

Illustrated by David Craig.

New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2008; 48 pages.

The focus of this biography is on Earhart's early interest in airplanes, her subsequent accomplishments as a pilot, and her disappearance. Photographs and paintings extend the narrative. Direct quotes from her speeches and writings are incorporated in the text and as sidebars.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Fleming, Candace. *Ben Franklin's Almanac: Being a True Account of the Good Gentleman's Life.*

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003; 120 pages.

Brings together 18th-century etchings, artifacts, journal entries, letters and quotations to create the effect of a scrapbook of the life of Benjamin Franklin. Illustrated with period documents and images.

WANDA GÁG

O'Hara, Megan (editor). *The Girlhood Diary of Wanda Gág, 1908-1909: Portrait of a Young Artist*

Minneapolis, MN: Capstone Press, 2000; 32 pages.

Features actual childhood diary excerpts and historical photographs from the life of children's book author and illustrator Wanda Gág. Time lines, maps and sidebars support the text. (See more books from the series at the end of this section of the bibliography.)

Ray, Deborah Kogan. *Wanda Gág: The Girl Who Lived to Draw*

New York: Viking, 2008; 40 pages.

Illustrated by the author.

The life of Wanda Gág, writer and illustrator of the famous picture storybook, *Millions of Cats*, is told through quotes from her diary that are expanded by the author. The slightly fictionalized text is accompanied by full-color illustrations in picture book format. An author's note and information about Gág's career are included.

SARAH JOSEPHA HALE

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Thank You, Sarah! - The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving*

Illustrated by Matt Faulkner.

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002; 32 pages.

Relates how Sarah Hale, a magazine editor and author, persuaded President Lincoln to transform Thanksgiving Day into a national holiday. A humorous picture book with playful illustrations, Halse's story demonstrates the power of letter writing in making social changes. The endnotes supply lots of information about the history of the Thanksgiving holiday, the specific time period of the book, and Hale's own life. Highly recommended for reading aloud.

HELEN KELLER

Sullivan, George. *Helen Keller*

New York: Scholastic Reference, 2000; 128 pages.

Series: In Their Own Words

Accessible and straightforward account of Keller's life, using excerpts from her own writings. Illustrated with photographs and a few primary documents.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Rappaport, Doreen. *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Illustrated by Bryan Collier.

New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2001; 32 pages.

A powerful picture book in its text, illustrations and design. The writing is spare, accessible and poetic, with inspirational quotes from MLK.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Fleming, Candace. *The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary*

New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008; 177 pages.

This dual biography of Abraham and Mary Lincoln is like an exhibit in book form. The pages are filled with photographs, letters, engravings and cartoons that tell their stories from childhood through their courtship and young married life, the White House years and the Civil War, Lincoln's assassination and Mary's later life.

Rappaport, Doreen. *Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln*

Illustrated by Kadir Nelson.

New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2008; 32 pages.

This is a portrait of Lincoln told in free verse accompanied by quotes of his own inspiring words. The book provides an overview of Lincoln's life, from his humble beginnings and his early political career through his struggles to preserve the Union and to abolish slavery. In picture book format with powerful, striking and generously-sized illustrations.

Holzer, Harold (editor). *Abraham Lincoln – The Writer: A Treasury of His Greatest Speeches and Letters*

Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2000; 106 pages.

A selection of writings assembled by a Lincoln scholar, with brief introductions that provide historical background. Illustrated throughout with black-and-white archival photographs.

MARITCHA REMOND LYONS

Bolden, Tonya. *Maritcha: a Nineteenth-Century American Girl*

New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2005; 48 pages.

A biography of a woman who was born to a free black family in New York City. After fleeing the Draft Riots of 1863, Maritcha Remond Lyons became a distinguished educator and writer. The book includes excerpts from letters and other writings and is illustrated with historic photographs and documents.

CARLOS MONTEZUMA

Capaldi, Gina. *A Boy Named Beckoning: The True Story of Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Native American Hero*

Illustrated by the author.

Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 2008; 32 pages.

Based on an autobiographical letter, historical documents and photographs taken by his adoptive father, this fully-illustrated story is about a Yavapai boy in Arizona who was kidnapped by another tribe and sold. Beckoning, later known as Carlos Montezuma, became a medical doctor and activist for the rights of Native American people.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Rappaport, Doreen. *Eleanor, Quiet No More*

Illustrated by Gary Kelley.

New York: Hyperion Books, 2009; 40 pages.

This powerfully conceived and illustrated biography is framed by direct quotes that reflect Eleanor Roosevelt's growing awareness of and compassion for the suffering of

others, and her activism on behalf of human rights. The artist's use of media and color is reminiscent of Depression-era WPA murals.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Anderson, Peter. *Henry David Thoreau: American Naturalist*

New York: Franklin Watts, 1995; 63 pages.

A lively and accessible introduction to Thoreau. Includes many quotes from his writings and many photographs and historic images.

Locker, Thomas. *Walking with Henry: Based on the Life and Works of Henry David Thoreau*

Illustrated by the author.

Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 2002; 28 pages.

In picture book format with painted illustrations. An excellent read-aloud that introduces the philosopher, writer and naturalist Henry David Thoreau through selections from his own writings and an imaginary journey into the wilderness.

Thoreau, Henry David and Steven Schnur (editor). *Henry David's House*

Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2002; 32 pages.

Illustrated by Peter Fiore.

The text of this picture book consists of short excerpts from Thoreau's *Walden* about the value of living life in harmony with nature. Illustrated with impressionistic paintings of Thoreau at Walden Pond.

MARK TWAIN

Kerley, Barbara. *The "Extraordinary" Mark Twain (According to Susy)*

Illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham.

New York: Scholastic Press, 2010; 32 pages.

Two texts are included in this book: one is the story of Twain's 13-year-old daughter, Susy, who decides to write her father's biography in her journal. The second is a series of excerpts from that biography. These entries appear on smaller, folded pages that are bound into this large-format picture book. The endnotes include more about Samuel and Susy Clemens, tips on writing a biography, a time line and source notes for quotes. With bold, vivid illustrations.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Thomas, Peggy. *Farmer George Plants a Nation*

Illustrated by Layne Johnson.

Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek Books, 2008; 40 pages.

Quotes from George Washington's diary reveal his scientific approach to farming. His interest in farming becomes a metaphor for leading the growth of the new nation.

The text deals straightforwardly with the subject of Washington's ownership of slaves. Fully-illustrated with rich colors. Also includes a timeline and additional background on Washington's attitude towards slavery.

Yoder, Carolyn (editor). *George Washington – The Writer: A Treasury of Letters, Diaries, and Public Documents*

Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2003; 141 pages.

Washington's thoughts, opinions and personality shine through these excerpts from his writings. The book begins with a brief biography, and each chapter opens with a short description of Washington during a particular period of his life and career.

WALT WHITMAN

Kerley, Barbara. *Walt Whitman: Words for America*

Illustrated by Brian Selznick.

New York: Scholastic Press, 2004; 48 pages.

While it tells about his entire life, the book highlights Walt Whitman's work with injured soldiers during the Civil War and his admiration for Abraham Lincoln.

Excerpts from Whitman's journals and poetry are incorporated in the text, which is complemented by Selznick's powerful illustrations. The endnotes include informative statements by both author and illustrator along with several of Whitman's poems.

WILBUR, ORVILLE AND KATHERINE WRIGHT

Maurer, Richard. *The Wright Sister: Katherine Wright and Her Famous Brothers*

Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook Press, 2003; 127 pages.

A biography of the Wright Brothers' sister, Katherine, who managed their affairs and traveled with them. Very accomplished in her own right, she was also better educated than her siblings. Much of our information about the brothers comes from her writings. With many quotes from letters and illustrated with family photographs.

Sullivan, George. *The Wright Brothers*

New York: Scholastic Reference, 2002; 127 pages.

A biography of the brothers responsible for developing the first airplane, featuring excerpts from their journals and letters, along with some of their drawings.

Biographies in Series

Series: *Diaries, Letters, and Memoirs*

The biographies in this series from Blue Earth Books (an imprint of Capstone Press) are each 32 pages and contain excerpts from the childhood diaries of both well-known and little-known Americans, accompanied by historical background. Illustrated with photographs and period art work. Some of the titles are out of print, but they are available in public libraries.

The Boyhood Diary of Charles Lindbergh, 1913-1916: Early Adventures of the Famous Aviator

The Boyhood Diary of Theodore Roosevelt, 1869-1870: Early Travels of the 26th U.S. President

The Girlhood Diary of Wanda Gág, 1908-1909: Portrait of a Young Artist

The Girlhood Diary of Louisa May Alcott, 1843-1846: Writings of a Young Author

A Civil War Drummer Boy: The Diary of William Bircher, 1861-1865

A Colonial Quaker Girl: the Diary of Sally Wister, 1777-1778

A Confederate Girl: The Diary of Carrie Berry, 1864

A Covered Wagon Girl: the Diary of Sallie Hester, 1849-1850

A Free Black Girl Before the Civil War: The Diary of Charlotte Forten, 1854

Excerpts from the diary of a 16-year-old African American who lived in Massachusetts touch on her schooling, participation in the antislavery movement, and her concern for an arrested fugitive slave.

A Nineteenth-Century Schoolgirl: The Diary of Caroline Cowles Richards, 1852-1855

A Pioneer Farm Girl: The Diary of Sarah Gillespie, 1877-1878

A Whaling Captain's Daughter: The Diary of Laura Jernegan, 1868-1871

A young girl who traveled with her family on her father's whaling ship in the 1860s writes about her schooling, dangerous whale hunts, and the activities of her baby brother. Includes sidebars.

Series: *Photobiographies*

The biographies in this National Geographic series are attractively designed with excellent, well-captioned photos, drawings, and quotes from speeches and writings. Each book includes a chronology, sources for quotes, and a list of additional resources. Written by different authors, the titles include:

Airborne: A Photobiography of Wilbur and Orville Wright

Always Inventing: A Photobiography of Alexander Graham Bell

Dragon Bones and Dinosaur Eggs: A Photobiography of Explorer Roy Chapman Andrews

Driven: A Photobiography of Henry Ford

Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein

Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher

Inventing the Future: A Photobiography of Thomas Alva Edison

Historical Fiction

Christ-Evans, Craig. *Moon Over Tennessee: A Boy's Civil War Journal*

Illustrated by Bonnie Christensen.

Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999; 63 pages.

The Southern perspective: A thirteen-year-old boy sets off with his father from their farm in Tennessee to join the Confederate forces on their way to fight at Gettysburg. Written in free verse in the form of diary entries.

Edwards, Judith. *The Great Expedition of Lewis and Clark by Private Reubin Field, Member of the Corps of Discovery*

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003; 32 pages.

Illustrated by Sally W. Comport.

A fictionalized account, told in the imagined voice of an actual participant, of the difficulties and wonders that were part of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Krensky, Stephen. *Dangerous Crossing: The Revolutionary Voyage of John Quincy Adams*

Illustrated by Greg Harlin.

New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2005; 32 pages.

In February 1778, at the height of the Revolutionary War, John Adams, is sent on a secret mission to France. Adams is accompanied by his ten-year-old son, Johnny. Excerpts from Adam's actual diary provide a description of the threats and hardships endured during their voyage. With full-color illustrations on every page.

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah, Plain and Tall*

New York: HarperTrophy, 2004; 67 pages.

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are drawn to their new mother and hope that she will stay. Letters sent among the father, the mail order bride, Sarah, and the children give both historical and emotional context to the story. Winner of the Newbury Medal.

Platt, Richard. *Pirate Diary: the Journal of Jake Carpenter*

Illustrated by Chris Riddell.

Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2001. 64 pages.

The fictional diary of a ten-year-old boy who, in 1716, sets off from North Carolina to become a sailor, but ends up a pirate instead. Historically accurate illustrations of ship and crew, maps, and a detailed glossary complement the narrative which reveals the harsh life of a pirate in the eighteenth century.

Pringle, Laurence. *Dog of Discovery: A Newfoundland's Adventures with Lewis and Clark*

Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2002; 148 pages.

Illustrated by Meryl Henderson.

Story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition presented from the viewpoint of Lewis's dog, Seaman. Includes quotes from the journals of Lewis and Clark, sidebars and drawings, and is organized as a dated journal.

Raven, Margot Theis. *Night Boat to Freedom*

Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006; 38 pages.

At the request of a fellow slave, Christmas John risks his life taking runaway slaves across the Ohio River. Based on slave narratives recorded in the 1930s. In picture book format.

Roop, Connie and Peter. *Grace's Letter to Lincoln*

New York: Hyperion Books, 1998; 68 pages.

On the eve of the 1860 presidential election, as the South threatens to secede, eleven-year-old Grace decides to help Abraham Lincoln get elected by writing and advising him to grow a beard. Based on a true incident.

Turner, Ann Warren. *Abe Lincoln Remembers*

Illustrated by Wendell Minor.

New York: HarperCollins, 2001; 32 pages.

In this picture book, set on the night before his death, Lincoln recalls his life's journey in spare and poetic language. Wendell Minor's illustrations are strong and colorful. Includes an historical note.

Turner, Ann Warren. *Mississippi Mud: Three Prairie Journals*

Illustrated by Robert J. Blake.

New York: HarperCollins, 1997; 44 pages.

Poems portray the feelings, experiences and observations of three pioneer children as their family leaves a barren farm in Kentucky for the hope of free, rich soil in Oregon. With full-color illustrations.

Whelan, Gloria. *Fruitlands: Louisa May Alcott Made Perfect*

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2002; 117 pages.

Fictional diary entries recount the actual efforts of Louisa May Alcott's family to establish the utopian community Fruitlands in Massachusetts, in 1843. The story is told through two sets of journal entries. In one, 10-year-old Louisa writes what she thinks her parents would want to read, knowing that they may actually look at her journal. The second is her secret diary. Based on Alcott's original diaries.

Historical Fiction in Series

Series: *American Voices* by Marissa Moss

Stories told in journal format with full-color illustrations on every page.

Emma's Journal: The Story of a Colonial Girl

San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1999; 40 pages.

From 1774 to 1776, Emma describes in her journal her stay in Boston where she witnesses the British blockade, and spies for the American militia.

Hannah's Journal: The Story of an Immigrant Girl

New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2000; 40 pages.

In the Russian shtetl where she and her family live, Hannah is given a diary for her tenth birthday, and in it she records the dramatic tale of her journey to America.

Rachel's Journal: The Story of a Pioneer Girl

New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2001; 40 pages.

Rachel records the story of her family's journey as they follow the Oregon Trail to California.

Rose's Journal: The Story of a Girl in the Great Depression

New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2003; 40 pages.

Eleven-year-old Rose Samuels writes of a dry, desolate year caused by a severe drought.

Series: *Dear Mr. President*

A series by different authors that features a fictional exchange of letters between a U.S. president and a young person. The books are illustrated with period documents and photographs, and the endnotes feature extensive biographical and historical information.

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Thomas Jefferson: Letters from a Philadelphia Bookworm*

New York: Winslow Press, 2000; 117 pages.

An educated young girl in Philadelphia corresponds with President Thomas Jefferson about current events, including the Lewis and Clark expedition, new inventions and life at Monticello.

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Theodore Roosevelt: Letters from a Young Coal Miner*

New York: Winslow Press, 2000; 153 pages.

A fifteen-year-old Polish immigrant boy exchanges letters with Theodore Roosevelt about conditions in the mines.

Kroll, Steven. *John Quincy Adams: Letters from a Southern Planter's Son*

New York: Winslow Press, 2001; 121 pages.

Between 1825 and 1827, twelve-year-old William Pratt, who lives in Georgia, writes to President John Quincy Adams about what he feels is an unjust treaty with the Creek Indians. Their correspondence also delves into the very close election of 1824, Mr. Adams's problems as president, slavery, education and more.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Abraham Lincoln: Letters from a Slave Girl*

New York: Winslow Press, 2001; 136 pages.

This exchange of letters between the fictional Lettie Tucker and President Lincoln reveals the experience of plantation life for slaves, and Lincoln's thoughts on the Civil War and emancipation.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. *Franklin D. Roosevelt: Letters from a Mill Town Girl*

New York: Winslow Press, 2001; 153 pages.

Between 1933 and 1935, a young Italian-American girl living in North Adams, Massachusetts, corresponds with President Franklin Roosevelt about the conditions in her town, Mr. Roosevelt's New Deal programs and her own family's activities.

Series from Scholastic: *Dear America*, *My America* and *My Name is America*

All three of these series are written in diary form by different authors. *My America* is for younger readers. Listed below is a sampling of the many titles in the three series. For more information on individual titles and for activities based on the books, go to www.scholastic.com/dearamerica/index.htm.

Dear America

Hermes, Patricia. *Westward to Home: Joshua's Oregon Trail Diary*

In 1848, nine-year-old Joshua Martin McCullough writes about his family's journey from Missouri to Oregon in a covered wagon.

Denenberg, Barry. *So Far From Home: The Diary of Mary Driscoll, an Irish Mill Girl*
In recording her journey from Ireland in 1847 and describing her work in a mill in Lowell, Massachusetts, fourteen-year-old Mary reveals a great longing for her family.

Denenberg, Barry. *When Will This Cruel War Be Over? The Civil War Diary of Emma Simpson*
A fourteen-year-old girl living in Virginia, describes the hardships endured by her family and friends during one year of the Civil War.

Gregory, Kristiana. *The Great Railroad Race: The Diary of Libby West*
As the daughter of a newspaper reporter, fourteen-year-old Libby writes in her diary about events surrounding the building of the railroad in the West in 1868.

Gregory, Kristiana. *The Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart*
Eleven-year-old Abigail writes about life in Valley Forge from December 1777 to July 1778, as General Washington prepares his troops to fight the British.

Hansen, Joyce. *I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly: The Diary of Patsy, a Freed Girl*
Twelve-year-old Patsy keeps a diary during the confusing time after the end of the Civil War and the granting of freedom to slaves.

Lasky, Kathryn. *Dreams in the Golden Country: The Diary of Zipporah Feldman, a Jewish Immigrant Girl*
Twelve-year-old Zippy, a Russian Jewish girl, records the first eighteen months of her family's life on the Lower East Side of New York City in 1903-1904.

Lasky, Kathryn. *The Journal of Augustus Pelletier - The Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804*
Twelve-year-old Augustus, the youngest member of the Lewis and Clark expedition, writes about the journey of discovery. Includes a map of the route and extensive historical notes.

Lasky, Kathryn. *A Journey to the New World: The Diary of Remember Patience Whipple*
Twelve-year-old Mem documents her family's voyage on the *Mayflower* in 1620 and their first year in the New World.

McKissack, Pat. *A Picture of Freedom: The Diary of Clotee, a Slave Girl*
In 1859, twelve-year-old Clotee, a house slave who must conceal the fact that she can read and write, records her experiences and her struggle to decide about escaping to freedom.

Myers, Walter Dean. *The Journal of Joshua Loper, a Black Cowboy*
A sixteen-year-old details cowboy life on the Chisholm Trail in 1871.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Standing in the Light: The Captive Diary of Catherine Carey Logan - Delaware Valley, Pennsylvania, 1763*
A Quaker girl's diary reflects her experiences growing up in the Delaware River Valley and her capture by Lenape Indians in 1763.

Rinaldi, Ann. *My Heart is on the Ground: The Diary of Nannie Little Rose, a Sioux Girl*

In describing her life at a government-run Pennsylvania boarding school in 1880, a twelve-year-old Sioux girl seeks for a way to help her people.

My America

Rinaldi, Ann. *The Journal of Jasper Jonathan Pierce, a Pilgrim Boy*

Jonathan, a young orphan, travels to the new world on the *Mayflower*. He later strikes out on his own and forms a powerful friendship with the feared Nauset tribe.

Bruchac, Joseph. *The Journal of Jesse Smoke, a Cherokee Boy*

Jesse, his mother and his sisters must abandon their home, their land and their possessions when they and several thousand other Cherokees are forced to travel west on The Trail of Tears.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *My Brother's Keeper: Virginia's Diary - Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1863*

Virginia Dickens writes about the Pennsylvania Volunteers who arrive in town reporting that the Rebels are headed to Gettysburg. She soon becomes a witness to one of the greatest battles of the Civil War and, later, to one of the most memorable presidential speeches.

Hermes, Patricia. *Our Strange New Land: Elizabeth's Jamestown Colony Diary*

In 1607, nine-year-old Lizzie Barker keeps a journal for her twin brother, Caleb, who stayed in England because of his weak lungs. She describes Jamestown's abundant forests, trading with and learning from the Indians, and adventures with her new friends.

Gregory, Kristiana. *We Are Patriots: Hope's Revolutionary War Diary*

During the American Revolution, Hope Potter is kept away from her friend whose parents are loyal to King George III. She finds out that her father has joined the Sons of Liberty and realizes that their family will be in danger if anyone finds out.

My Name is America

Denenberg, Barry. *The Journal of Ben Uchida: Citizen 13559 - Mirror Lake Internment Camp, California, 1942*

A twelve-year-old Japanese-American boy writes about being imprisoned in an internment camp during World War II.

Denenberg, Barry. *The Journal of William Thomas Emerson, a Revolutionary War Patriot*

William, a twelve-year-old orphan, writes of his experiences in 18th-century Boston where he joins the cause of the patriots who are opposed to British rule.

Durbin, William. *The Journal of Sean Sullivan: A Transcontinental Railroad Worker*

In 1867, fifteen-year-old Sean joins his father in helping to build the Transcontinental Railroad.

Rinaldi, Ann. *The Journal of Jasper Jonathan Pierce, a Pilgrim Boy - Plymouth, 1620*

A fourteen-year-old indentured servant records his experiences while sailing on the *Mayflower* and during the building of Plymouth Plantation.

Yep, Laurence. *The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung: A Chinese Miner - California, 1852*

A young Chinese boy records his experiences traveling from southern China to California where he joins his uncle during the Gold Rush.

Nonfiction

Allen, Thomas B. *Remember Pearl Harbor: American and Japanese Survivors Tell Their Stories*

Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2001; 57 pages.

Presents the story of the Pearl Harbor attack through the first-person accounts of American and Japanese survivors. Illustrated with many photos and maps.

Bausum, Ann. *Muckrakers: How Ida Tarbell, Upton Sinclair, and Lincoln Steffens Helped Expose Scandal, Inspire Reform, and Invent Investigative Journalism*

Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2007; 111 pages.

Stories of the brave journalists whose exposés helped to launch important social and political reforms in the early 20th century. Includes many quotes and photographs.

Bolden, Tonya. *Tell All the Children Our Story: Memories and Mementos of Being Young and Black in America*

New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2001; 128 pages.

Portrays the lives of African American children from the time of the Jamestown colony through the late 20th century. Arranged as a scrapbook with photographs, letters, diary excerpts, art, illustrations and narrative text.

Cole, Sheila. *To Be Young in America: Growing Up With the Country, 1776-1940*

New York: Little, Brown, 2005; 146 pages.

Examines how children experienced events in U.S. history. With many personal narratives and more than one hundred photographs and illustrations.

Cooper, Michael. *Fighting for Honor: Japanese Americans and World War II*

New York: Clarion Books, 2000; 118 pages.

Examines the history of Japanese Americans based mainly on diaries, autobiographies and military records. The book discusses the mass relocation to internment camps as well as the distinguished record of Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during the war.

Duncan, Dayton. *People of the West*

Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1996; 120 pages.

Based on the Public Television series, *The West* by Ken Burns. Provides a picture of life during the formative years of the American west through the letters, journals and stories of fifteen men and women. With black-and-white photos on every page.

Dunn, John (editor). *Northerners: Voices from the Civil War*

San Diego, CA: Blackbirch Press, 2003; 32 pages.

Northerners were split over how to respond to the South when it broke away from the Union in 1861. This book provides excerpts from letters, books, newspaper articles, speeches, and diary entries, which express the diverse views of northerners toward slavery and the Civil War.

Dunn, John (editor). *Southerners: Voices from the Civil War*

San Diego, CA: Blackbirch Press, 2003; 32 pages.

Presents a wide range of personal accounts by southerners who witnessed the coming of the Civil War and its devastating impact on the South. Uses excerpts from letters, diaries, newspaper articles, speeches and books.

Flanagan, Alice. *The Lowell Mill Girls*

Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point Books, 2006; 48 pages.

Series: *We the People*

Life as a mill girl in the 19th century seen through the story of Lucy Larcom, who documented her experiences in *A New England Girlhood*. Illustrated with documents and images from the period.

Fleming, Thomas. *Everybody's Revolution: A New Look at the People Who Won America's Freedom*

New York: Scholastic, 2006; 96 pages.

Portrays the diversity of those who played leading roles in the struggle for American independence. Includes side bars with biographical sketches, quotes from participants, primary documents and illustrations.

Gourley, Catherine. *Good Girl Work: Factories, Sweatshops, and How Women Changed Their Role in the American Workforce*

Brookfield, CT: The Millbrook Press, 1999; 96 pages.

The story of how working girls fought against unfair and unsafe labor practices in the 18th and 19th centuries, from the perspective of the girls themselves as recorded in their diaries.

Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas. *We Are Americans: Voices of the Immigrant Experience*

New York: Scholastic, 2003; 194 pages.

A history of immigration to America, told largely in the immigrants' own words. Starts with the first Native Americans and continues through colonial days to the present. With many illustrations and photographs.

Ketchum, Liza. *The Gold Rush*

Boston: Little, Brown, 1996; 118pages.

Based on the Public Television series, *The West* by Ken Burns. Describes the California gold rush and its effect on the seekers, the Spanish settlers, and the native Indian tribes who lived there. The focus is on individual people, both the famous and the little-known, many of whom tell their stories in their own words through letters and journals. With black-and-white photos on every page.

Landau, Elaine. *Fleeing to Freedom on the Underground Railroad: The Courageous Slaves, Agents, and Conductors*

Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2006; 88 pages.

The story of the escape route used by fugitive slaves is told with letters, newspaper articles and short biographies of many of those who were involved.

McKissack, Pat. *Days of Jubilee: The End of Slavery in the United States*

New York: Scholastic Press, 2003; 134 pages.

Uses slave narratives, letters, diaries, military orders and other documents to chronicle the various stages leading to the emancipation of slaves in the United States.

Meltzer, Milton. *The American Revolutionaries: A History in Their Own Words 1750-1800*

New York: HarperCollins, 1993; 200 pages.

A collection of eyewitness accounts of the American Revolution. Illustrated with photos, art work and documents.

Murphy, Jim. *Blizzard! The Storm that Changed America*

New York: Scholastic, 2000; 136 pages.

An account of the March, 1888 storm that paralyzed the Northeast for four days, based on first-person accounts and contemporary news sources. Illustrated with photographs, drawings and maps.

Murphy, Jim. *The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War*

New York: Clarion Books, 1990; 110 pages.

Includes diary entries, personal letters and archival photographs to describe the experiences of boys, aged 16 and younger, who fought in the Civil War.

Parks, Rosa. *Dear Mrs. Parks: A Dialogue with Today's Youth*

New York: Lee & Low Books, 1996; 110 pages.

Presents a selection of letters and queries sent by children to Rosa Parks and Mrs. Parks's replies, in which she encourages her young correspondents to achieve their highest potential.

Rappaport, Doreen. *Lady Liberty: A Biography*

Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2008; 40 pages.

The story of how the Statue of Liberty came to be as told through short poems written from the viewpoint of those who helped to create Lady Liberty and bring her to the United States. In some cases these imagined first-person accounts incorporate the actual words of the speakers. Included are a few selected quotes from immigrants who passed by the statue as they arrived in America.

Schanzer, Rosalyn. *How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis and Clark*

Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1997; 44 pages.

The text is comprised of primary sources – excerpts from letters, notebooks and journals. The full-color illustrations by the author are large, action-packed and humorous.

Schanzer, Rosalyn. *Gold Fever: Tales from the California Gold Rush*

Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1999; 42 pages.

Playful illustrations and excerpts from letters, journals, and newspaper articles relate the story of the California Gold Rush of 1848. Full-color illustrations on every page.

Schlissel, Lillian. *The Way West: Journal of a Pioneer Woman*

Illustrated by Michael McCurdy.

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1999, 32 pages.

An adaptation of the diary of Amelia Stewart Knight written while she, her husband, and seven children journeyed from Iowa to the Oregon Territory in 1853. Illustrated on every page with full-color woodcuts.

Silvey, Anita. *I'll Pass for Your Comrade: Women Soldiers in the Civil War*

New York: Clarion Books, 2008; 115 pages.

This book explores the secret world of women soldiers: who they were, why they went to war, and how they managed their disguises. Primary sources include memoirs, diaries and letters, as well as newspaper stories and the writings of male soldiers who knew about the women fighting alongside them. Illustrated with archival photographs and reproductions.

Steffoff, Rebecca. *American Voices from Colonial Life*

New York: Benchmark Books, 2003; 119 pages.

Presents the history of the British colonies in North America, beginning with the Jamestown settlement, through excerpts from letters, pamphlets, journal entries, and other documents of the time.

Wadsworth, Ginger. *Words West: Voices of Young Pioneers*

New York: Clarion, 2003; 178 pages.

The stories of young pioneers, told in their own words through letters home, diaries and memoirs. Includes short biographies of the children and a timeline. Illustrated with detailed maps and many archival photos and prints of life on the trail.

Nonfiction Books in Series

Series: *American Heritage: American Voices*

Published by John Wiley & Sons, Marshall Cavendish and Benchmark Books. From *American Heritage* magazine, these books present primary source documents – including letters, diaries and journals – that bring to life the day-to-day experiences of adults and children in different historical periods:

Colonies and Revolution

The Time of Slavery

Civil War and Reconstruction

Westward Expansion

The Wild West

Series: *Our America*

Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2003; 62 pages.

This series features the true-life adventures of American children (many of whom grew up to become presidents or other important national figures) with historical sidebars, quotes from primary sources such as diaries and letters, and art authentic to each era. The text is accompanied by black-and-white and color illustrations, including a number of drawings and portraits as well as photographs of artifacts.

Growing Up in a New World: 1607 to 1775

Growing Up in Revolution and the New Nation: 1775 to 1800

Growing Up in Pioneer America: 1800 to 1890

Growing Up in the Civil War: 1861 to 1865

Growing Up in World War II: 1941 to 1945

Growing Up in a New Century: 1890 to 1914

Growing Up in World War II: 1941 to 1945

Series: *Soldiers on the Battlefield* by Susan Provost Beller

Brookfield, CT: Twenty-First Century Books, 2003-07; 100 pages.

Describes military life during America's wars. Includes excerpts from first-person accounts, letters and diaries. Illustrated with many period images and photographs.

Yankee Doodle and the Redcoats: Soldiering in the Revolutionary War

The Siege of the Alamo: Soldiering in the Texas Revolution

Billy Yank and Johnny Reb: Soldiering in the Civil War

The Doughboys Over There: Soldiering in World War I

Battling in the Pacific: Soldiering in World War II

Series: *Perspectives on History*

Carlisle, MA: Discovery Enterprises and History Compass.

This series highlights primary source documents including excerpts from the diaries and letters of young people and adults, along with journals, eyewitness accounts, poetry, songs, illustrations and historic photographs. There is also emphasis on those whose contributions are often not recognized, such as women and people of color. Each book in the series is a small paperback of approximately 60 pages. Titles include:

American Waterways: Canal Days

Black Abolitionists

The Cherokee Nation: Life Before the Tears

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights

Cry "Witch!": The Salem Witchcraft Trials

Faith Unfurled: The Pilgrims' Quest for Freedom

The Shot Heard 'Round the World: The Beginnings of the American Revolution

The Underground Railroad: Life on the Road to Freedom

Voices from the West: Life Along the Trail

War of 1812

Westward Expansion: Exploration and Settlement

Women in the American Revolution