## **Historical Fiction for Middle Grades**



*Turtle in Paradise*, by Jennifer L. Holm (J Holm). Eleven-year-old Turtle is smart and tough enough to survive the hard times of 1935, even when she has to leave her mom and move to Key West, Florida to stay with relatives she has never met.



A Long Way From Chicago, by Richard Peck. (J Peck). Joey and his sister Mary Alice spend nine unforgettable summer vacations at their Grandma Dowdell's house. Grandma Dowdell is atypical, but the children learn about the Great Depression, small town America, and Chicago during its gangster-plagued years despite her tough persona.



*Number the Stars*, by Lois Lowry (Newberry Award J Lowry). Set in Denmark, Copenhagen during the Nazi invasion of WWII, *Number the Stars* is a story of the bravery of people like young Annemarie who helped Denmark's Jewish citizens avoid capture and the Nazi death camps.



Island off the Blue Dolphins, by Scott O'Dell (Newberry Award J O'Dell). Based on a true story about Karana, an Indian girl that survives some 18 years on an island off of California. A story of self discovery and the earthquakes, otter-hunting, and early Indian-trader relationships of Karana's time.



*Bud, not Buddy,* by Christopher Paul Curtis (Newberry Award J Curtis). Bud, a ten year old orphan in 1936 hard-hit Depression filled Flint Michigan hits the road with his rag tag suitcase to find a jazz musician, Herman E. Calloway-whom he believes is his father.



Across Five April's, by Irene Hunt (J Hunt). This is an unforgettable story of Jethro Creighton—a brave boy who comes of age throughout the turbulent years of the Civil War while his brother's are away serving as soldiers, and during the failing health of his father.



The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: Book I: The Mysterious Howling, by Maryrose Wood, (J Wood) Set in 19th century, a 15-year old English governess is hired to care for 3 wild children at a British county manor, Ashton Place.



I Survived #5: I Survived the San Francisco Earthquake, 1906, by Lauren Tarshis (J Tarshis). A startling story about ten-year-old Leo and how he survived one of history's most terrifying disasters.



The Dreamer, by Pam Muñoz Ryan, (J Ryan). Based on the youth and adolescence of Neftali, a Chilean boy who finds beauty and intrigue in all aspects of nature. This is an historical novel that depicts the youth of the famous poet, Pablo Neruda in a turbulent time in Chile. A deceivingly big book but with large font-all in green!

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Countdown, by Deborah Wiles (J Wiles)).vIt's 1962, and twelve-year –old Franny Chapman must figure out where she fits in with her family while the United States is facing the threat of nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis.



The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg, by Rodman Philbrick (J Philbrick). When his older brother is illegally sold to the Union Army during the Civil War, young Homer takes it upon himself to find and save him. Along the way he encounters all sorts of characters, including the Maine regiment who save Little Round Top at the Battle of Gettysburg.



Neil Armstrong is My Uncle and Other Lies Muscle Man McGinty Told Me, by Nan Marino (J Marino). Set in Long Island in 1969, the story covers historical elements such as; astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, the Vietnam War, hippies and Woodstock. Young Tamara's best friend moves away unexpectedly, and now she must sort out how a newcomer, "Muscle Man McGinty" has charmed everyone with his outrageous stories.



The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate, by Jacqueline Kelly (J Kelly). While eleven-year-old Calpurnia, a budding naturalist, learns about evolution theories from her grandfather, she also learns about societal expectations and the limitations of being a woman in 1899 America.



Dead End in Norvelt, by jack Gantos (Newberry J Gantos). Norvelt, a small town founded by Eleanor Roosevelt during the Depression era for displaced families, provides plenty of crazy summer adventures for twelve-year-old Jack Gantos. Set in 1962, the author weaves his own childhood experiences into this award winning novel.



*Moon Over Manifest,* by Clare Vanderpool (Newberry J Vanderpool). Manifest, a small Kansas town built around old strip mines, is made up of immigrants from over 20 different countries. A strong story about a community surviving during the dark days of the Depression.



*The Cross of Lead*, by Avi (J Series Avi Book 1). An action –filled historical novel that Tracks the frenzied flight of a 13-year-old peasant boy across 14-century England