



Glenfield's Top 10 Books

TOP TEN HISTORICAL FICTION

A Bi-weekly Recommended List for Middle School Readers
Curated by Mrs. Virginia Weaver, Glenfield School Librarian
Week of January 8, 2018

Avi. *Nothing but the Truth: a documentary novel*. New York: Orchard Books,, 1991

A ninth-graders suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner during homeroom becomes a national news story.

Crowe, Chris. *Mississippi Trial, 1955*. New York: Penguin, 2002.

In Mississippi in 1955, a white sixteen year-old find himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a fourteen-year-old African American boy from Chicago.

Hughes, Dean. *Four-Four-Two*. New York: Scholastic, 2016.

Yuki Nakahara is an American. -- But it's the start of World War II, and America doesn't see it that way. Like many other Japanese Americans, Yuki and his family have been forced into an internment camp in the Utah desert. But Yuki isn't willing to sit back and accept this injustice—it's his country too, and he's going to prove it by enlisting in the army to fight for the Allies. When Yuki and his friend Shig ship out, they aren't prepared for the experiences they'll encounter as members of the "Four-Four-Two," a segregated regiment made up entirely of Japanese-American soldiers. Before Yuki returns home—if he returns home—he'll come face to face with persistent prejudices, grueling combat he never imagined, and friendships deeper than he knew possible.

Lewis, Richard. *The Killing Sea*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2006.

In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Sumatra, two teenagers, American Sarah and Acehnese Ruslan, meet and continue together their arduous climb inland, where Ruslan hopes to find his father and Sarah seeks a doctor for her brother.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Harlem Summer*. New York, Scholastic, 2007

Summer 1915. Harlem is hot, humming and full of possibilities for 16 year old Mark Purvia - as long as he can weasel out of working at his uncle's funeral parlor. Mark takes a job downtown at The Crisis publishing office. He's not sure he's the kind of "New Negro" all those Crisis folks like Dr. W.E.B. DuBois and Langston Hughes are talking about. But he's sure of something else: his sax...and Fats Waller. All Mark wants is a chance to wail on his saxophone and impress Fats, Harlem's own piano-playing musical giant. A beautifully written novel about one boy navigating his way through Harlem's happening streets and into his own manhood.

Park, Linda Sue. *A Long Walk to Water*. New York: Clarion, 2010.

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven year old Sala becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan.

Paulsen, Gary. *Soldier's Heart*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1998.

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

Sepetys, Ruta. *Salt to the Sea*. New York: Philomel, 2016.

Each one born of a different homeland, each one hunted and haunted by tragedy..lies and war.

As thousands of desperate refugees flock to the coast in the midst of the Soviet advance, four paths converge, vying for passage aboard Wilhelm Gustloff, a ship that promises safety and freedom. Yet not all promises can be kept. Other books by the author are: Prisoner B-3085, and Projekt 1065.

Spradlin, Michael P. *The Enemy Above: A novel of World War II*.

In 1942 twelve-year-old Anton, his family, and their small community of Ukrainian Jews are hiding from the advancing Nazi troops and the Gestapo in a web of underground caves. One officer in particular, Major Karl Von Duesen, is determined to catch or kill every Jew he can find, but as the tide of war turns, a final confrontation between Anton and his enemy is looming.

Wiles, Deborah. *Countdown*. New York: Scholastic, 2010.

It's 1962, and it seems that the whole country is living in fear. When President Kennedy goes on television to say that Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba, and it only gets worse. Featuring a captivating story interspersed with footage from 1962, award-winning author Deborah Wiles has created a documentary novel.

*Descriptions taken from publishers