Catherine, Called Birdie – Karen Cushman – JF CUS
The teenage daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

Climbing the Stairs – Padma Venkatraman – YA F VEN
In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, fifteen-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father’s extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of life.

Esperanza Rising – Pam Muñoz Ryan – JF RYA
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances during the Great Depression.

Lyddie – Katherine Paterson – JF PAT
Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Massachusetts in the 1840s.

Al Capone Does My Shirts (series) – Gennifer Choldenko – JF CHO
A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards’ families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Bud, Not Buddy – Christopher Paul Curtis – JF CUIR
Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father.

Heart of a Samurai – Margi Preus – JF PRE
In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck, fourteen-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

Dear America (series) – various authors – JF DEA
This series is written in the form of a diary of a young woman’s life during an important event or time period in American history.

A Moment Comes – Jennifer Bradbury – YA F BRA
As violence stirs 1947 India, Tariq, a Muslim, finds himself caught between his forbidden interest in a Sikh girl and a British girl.

For more recommendations, talk to any children’s floor librarian!

Updated 5/2016
Here’s a list of some of the best Historical Fiction our library has to offer!

**Book locations:**

“JF” – Juvenile fiction, 3rd floor  
“YA” – 1st floor

**Number the Stars – Lois Lowry – JF LOW**

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

**True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle – Avi – JF AVI**

As the lone “young lady” on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

**Fever 1793 – Laurie Halse Anderson – YA F AND**

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 yellow fever.

**American Girl (series) – various authors – JF AME**

This collection of novels is set within the doll line’s fictional universe. Each set of stories follows certain girls through different time periods.

**Little House in the Big Woods (series) – Laura Ingalls Wilder – JF WIL**

This is the story of a year in the life of two young girls growing up on the Wisconsin frontier, as they help with daily chores and share special occasions with family and friends.

**Stella by Starlight – Sharon M. Draper – JF DRA**

When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

**The Door In the Wall – Marguerite De Angeli – JF DEA**

In this Newbery Medal winner, a crippled boy in fourteenth-century England proves his courage and earns recognition from the King.

**I Survived (series) – Lauren Tarshis – JF TAR**

These fast-paced stories focus on historical disasters from the perspective of a boy or girl who lived through them.

**Crispin (series) – Avi – JF 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.

**The Mostly True Adventure of Homer P. Figg – W. R. Philbrick – JF PHI**

Twelve-year-old Homer, a poor but clever orphan, has extraordinary adventures after running away from his evil uncle to rescue his brother, who has been sold into service in the Civil War.

**The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate – Jacqueline Kelly – YA F KEL**

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callicee Vee Tate learns about love from the older three of her six brothers and studies the natural world with her grandfather which leads to an important discovery.

**Moon Over Manifest – Clare Vanderpool – JF VAN**

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

**Dragonwings (series) – Laurence Yep – JF YEP**

This series spans over a hundred years. In this heralded book, a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine in 1903.