Historical Fiction

All of the following books are owned by the Fair Lawn Public Library and are shelved in the fiction section by the author’s last name. Also try other books by the authors on this list or look through the fiction section for the yellow historical fiction stickers.

**Dinosaurs Before Dark** By Mary Pope Osborne
First in the Magic Tree House series. Eight-year-old Jack and his younger sister Annie find a magic tree house that whisks them back to an ancient time zone where they see live dinosaurs.

**The Grey Striped Shirt** By Jacqueline Jules
When Frannie finds a grey striped shirt in the closet, she asks questions which leads her grandparents to tell her about their experiences in the Holocaust.

**Night Crossing** By Karen Ackerman
In 1938, beginning to feel the persecution that all Jews are experiencing in their Austrian city, Clara and her family escape over the mountains into Switzerland.

**The Battlefield Ghost** By Margery Cuyler
When fourth grader John and his sister Lisa move into an old house in Princeton, New Jersey, they discover it haunted by the ghost of a Hessian soldier from the Revolutionary War so they try to reunite him with the ghost of his beloved horse.

**The Courage of Sarah Noble** By Alice Dalgliesh
An eight-year-old girl finds the courage to help her father to build a new home in the Connecticut wilderness and to stay with the Indians when her father goes back to bring the rest of the family.

**Hope in my Heart** By Kathryn Lasky
Part of the My America series shelved under “Dear.” After her family immigrates to America from Italy in 1903, ten-year-old Sofia is quarantined at the Ellis Island Immigration Station, where she makes a good friend but endures nightmarish conditions.

**Knights of the Kitchen Table** By Jon Scieszka
Part of the Time Warp Trio series. When Joe, Fred, and Sam are sent back in time by a magic book, they find themselves face-to-face with giants, dragons, wizards, and the Knights of the Round Table.
Mirette on the High Wire  By Emily McCully
Mirette learns how to walk on a tightrope from Monsieur Bellini, a guest in her mother's boarding house, not knowing that he is a celebrated tightrope artist who has withdrawn from performing out of fear.

All-of-a-Kind Family  By Sydney Taylor
First in the All-of-a-Kind Family series. The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York City at the turn of the century.

Breaking Stalin's Nose  By Eugene Yelchin
In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, ten-year-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist, but when police take his father away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs.

Meet Felicity: An American Girl  By Valerie Tripp
Part of the American Girl series, shelved under “American.” In Williamsburg in 1774, nine-year-old Felicity rescues a beautiful horse that has been beaten and starved by her cruel owner.

The Great Turkey Walk  By Kathleen Karr
In 1860, a somewhat simple-minded fifteen-year-old boy attempts to herd one thousand turkeys from Missouri to Denver, Colorado in hopes of selling them for a profit.

Henry's Freedom Box  By Ellen Levine
A fictionalized account of how Henry "Box" Brown, a Virginia slave in 1849, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

Hunger  By Donna Jo Napoli
In the autumn of 1846 in Ireland, twelve-year-old Lorraine and her family struggle to survive during the Irish potato famine. When Lorraine meets Miss Susannah, the daughter of the wealthy English landowner who owns Lorraine's family's farm, they form an unlikely friendship that they must keep a secret due to the deep cultural divide between their two families.
**Little House in the Big Woods** By Laura Ingles Wilder
The first in the Little House on the Prairie series. A year in the life of a girl growing up on the Wisconsin frontier as she helps her mother with chores, enjoys her father’s singing and stories, and socializes with friends and family.

**Once** By Morris Gleitzman
After living in a Catholic orphanage for nearly four years, a naive Jewish boy runs away and embarks on a journey across Nazi-occupied Poland to find his parents.

**Rebound** By Kwame Alexander
In the summer of 1988, twelve-year-old Chuck Bell is sent to stay with his grandparents where he discovers jazz and basketball and learns more about his family's past.

**Riding Freedom** By Pam Munoz Ryan
An account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst, who ran away from an orphanage to California while posed as a boy and fooled everyone through her appearance.

**Caddie Woodlawn** By Carol Brink
The adventures of an eleven-year-old tomboy growing up on the Wisconsin frontier in the mid-nineteenth century.

**The Dragon’s Child: A Story of Angel Island** By Laurence Yep
In 1922, ten-year-old Gim Lew reluctantly leaves his village in China to accompany his father to America. Before they go, he must prepare for a grueling test that he must pass—without stuttering—at California's Angel Island, where strict officials strive to keep out unwanted immigrants.

**Honus & Me** By Dan Gutman
First in the Baseball Card Adventures. Joey, who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable 1909 Honus Wagner card and travels back in time to meet Honus.
Joshua's Song  By Joan Hiatt Harlow
Nearing to earn money after his father's death during the influenza epidemic of 1918, thirteen-year-old Joshua works as a newspaper boy in Boston. One day, he finds himself in the vicinity of an explosion that send tons of molasses coursing through the streets.

The Redheaded Princess  By Ann Rinaldi
In 1542, nine-year-old Lady Elizabeth lives on an estate near London, striving to get back into the good graces of her father, King Henry VIII. As the years pass, she faces his death and those of other close relatives until she finds herself next in line to ascend the throne of England in 1558.

Sarah Plain and Tall  By Patricia MacLaclan
When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

Titanic Crossing  By Barbara Williams
In 1912, thirteen-year-old Albert considers his younger sister a pest, but things change when they travel with their mother and uncle aboard the Titanic and are caught up in its tragic sinking.

Ben and Me  By Robert Lawson
Benjamin Franklin's companion, Amos the mouse, recounts how he was responsible for Franklin's inventions and discoveries.

Brave Like my Brother  By Marc Tyler Nobleman
When Charlie's older brother Joe is drafted in 1942, Charlie learns about the tedium and dangers of war through Joe's letters. His brother's bravery in dealing with a spy as D-Day approaches finally gives Charlie the strength to stand up to the local bully.

The Doll with the Yellow Star  By Yona McDonough
When France falls to Germany at the start of World War II, nine-year-old Claudine must leave her beloved parents and friends to stay with relatives in America, accompanied by her doll Violette.
**I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863** by Lauren Tarshis
Part of the I Survived series. It's 1863 and Thomas and his little sister, Birdie, have fled the farm where they were born and raised as slaves. As they follow the North Star in search of freedom, they soon cross paths with a Union soldier.

**The Inquisitor’s Tale, or, the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog** by Adam Gidwitz
Crossing paths at an inn, thirteenth-century travelers impart the tales of a monastery oblate, a Jewish refugee, and a psychic peasant girl with a loyal greyhound, whom all join forces on a chase through France to escape persecution.

**Letters from Rifka** by Karen Hesse
In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family’s flight from Russia in 1919 and writes about her experiences being alone in Belgium while waiting to join her family in America.

**Lily’s Crossing** by Patricia Reilly Giff
During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

**The Parker Inheritance** by Varian Johnson
Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for digging up the city tennis courts in search of buried treasure. When she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery. With the help of her new friend and fellow book-worm Brandon, she sets out to find the inheritance.

**Rescue on the Oregon Trail** by Kate Messner
Part of the Ranger in Time series. Ranger, a golden retriever, could have been a great search and rescue dog if it wasn’t for the squirrels. One day, he unearths a mysterious box and finds himself transported back to the year 1850 where his faithful service is really needed by a family traveling west along the Oregon Trail.

**The Winter of Red Snow: Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart** by Kristiana Gregory
Part of the Dear America series, shelved under “Dear.” Eleven-year-old Abigail presents a diary account of life in Valley Forge from December 1777 to July 1778 as General Washington prepares his troops to fight the British.
The Hero Two Doors Down  By Sharon Robinson
Eight-year-old Steve Satlow is thrilled when Jackie Robinson moves into his Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn in 1948 although many of his neighbors are not. When Steve actually meets his hero he is even more excited, but becomes and worried that a misunderstanding over a Christmas tree could damage his new friendship.

Emily's Fortune  By Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
While traveling to her aunt's home in Redbud by train and stagecoach, quiet young Emily and her turtle, Rufus, team up with Jackson, fellow orphan and troublemaker extraordinaire, to outsmart mean Uncle Victor who is after Emily's inheritance.

George Washington's Socks  By Elvira Woodruff
In the midst of a backyard campout, ten-year-old Matt and four other children find themselves transported to the time of George Washington and the American Revolution, where they begin experience American history firsthand and learn the sober realities of war.

Going, Going, Gone  By Nicholas Time
First in the In Due Time series. Three middle schoolers travel back in time to the 1950s with the help of a magical library book.

Ben's Revolution : Benjamin Russell and the Battle of Bunker Hill  By Nathaniel Philbrick
Twelve-year-old Benjamin Russell of Boston experiences the Revolutionary War from the Boston Tea Party of 1773 through the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Includes historical notes.

Countdown  By Deborah Wiles
First in the Sixties trilogy. Eleven-year-old Franny deals with the challenges of growing up against the backdrop of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

The Great Brain  By John Fitzgerald
First in the Great Brain series. The exploits of the Great Brain of Adenville, Utah are described by his younger brother, who was frequently the victim of the Great Brain's schemes for gaining prestige or money.
I am David  By Anne Holm
After escaping from an Eastern European concentration camp where he has spent most of his life, a twelve-year-old boy struggles to cope with an entirely strange world as he flees northward to freedom in Denmark.

Kira-Kira  By Cynthia Kadohata
Story of the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

The Lincoln Project  By Dan Gutman
Miss Z, a mysterious billionaire and a collector of rare photographs, is sending her four recruits back in time on a mission to capture, for the first time, one of the most important moments in American history—Abraham Lincoln giving his famous Gettysburg address.

Orphan Train Girl  By Christina Baker Kline
You person’s edition of an adult best seller. Molly, a twelve-year-old girl in the foster care system, takes a position helping an elderly woman named Vivian and discovers that they are more alike than different as she helps Vivian solve a mystery from her past.

Penny From Heaven  By Jennifer L. Holm
As she turns twelve during the summer of 1953, Penny gains new insights into herself and her family while also learning a secret about her father's death.

Dash  By Kirby Larson
When her family is forced into an internment camp, Mitsi Kashino is separated from her home, her classmates, and her beloved dog Dash. As her family begins to come apart around her, Mitsi clings to her one connection to the outer world: the letters from the kind neighbor who is caring for Dash.

The Dogs of Winter  By Bobbie Pyron
Brought to Moscow in the 1990s by his mother’s abusive boyfriend, five-year-old Mishka is forced by a gang of homeless children to lie and steal until he finds comfort and love with a pack of dogs.
Nine, Ten: A Sept. 11th Story
By Nora Raleigh Baskin
Recounts how the lives of four children living in different parts of the country intersect and are affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

Inside Out and Back Again
By Thanhha Lai
Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

A Gathering of Days
By Joan Blos
The journal of a girl, kept the last year she lived on her family farm in the 1830s, records daily events of her small New Hampshire town.

Greenhorn
By Anna Olswanger
Daniel, a young Holocaust survivor arrives at a New York yeshiva in 1946 where he will study and live. His only possession is a small box that he never lets out of his sight. Daniel rarely talks but the narrator, a stutterer who bears the taunts of the other boys, comes to consider Daniel his friend.

Number the Stars
By Lois Lowry
In 1943, during the Nazi occupation of Denmark, Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Mr. Tucket
By Gary Paulson
First in the Tucket series. In 1848, while on a wagon train headed for Oregon, fourteen-year-old Francis Tucket is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians. In their captivity he falls in with a one-armed trapper who teaches him how to live in the wild.

Moon Over Manifest
By Clare Vanderpool
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. There, she hopes to find out some things about his past.
**The Sign of the Beaver**  
By Elizabeth George Speare  
Left alone to guard his family’s wilderness home in 18th century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

**A Single Shard**  
By Linda Sue Park  
Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters’ village and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

**The Sign of the Beaver**  
By Elizabeth George Speare  
Left alone to guard his family’s wilderness home in 18th century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

**Refugee**  
By Alan Gratz  
Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany, Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994, and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge and discover shocking connections that tie their stories together.

**Watson’s go to Birmingham**  
By Christopher Paul Curtis  
The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

**Someone Named Eva**  
By Joan Wolf  
From her home in Lidice, Czechoslovakia in 1942, eleven-year-old Milada is taken with other blonde, blue-eyed children to a school in Poland to be trained as “proper Germans” for adoption by German families but all the while she remembers her true name and history.

**When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit**  
By Judith Kerr  
Recounts the adventures of a nine-year-old Jewish girl and her family in the early 1930s as they travel from Germany to England.
Esperanza Rising  By Pan Muñoz Ryan
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Mara, Daughter of the Nile  By Eloise Jarvis McGraw
The adventures of an ingenious Egyptian slave girl who undertakes a dangerous assignment as a spy in the royal palace of Thebes in the days when Queen Hatshepsut ruled.

A Mutiny in Time  By James Dashner
First in the Infinity Ring series. Time has gone wrong and best friends Dak Smyth and Sera Froste, together with the young Hystorian Riq, must use the infinity ring to travel back to one of the Great Breaks—a mutiny on the Santa María—to correct history and defeat the SQ.

Serefina and the Black Cloak  By Robert Beatty
In 1899, a twelve-year-old rat catcher on North Carolina’s Biltmore estate teams up with the estate owner’s young nephew to battle a great evil. In the process, they unlock the puzzle of her past.

Stella By Starlight  By Sharon M. Draper
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.

A Year Down Yonder  By Richard Peck
Sequel to A Long Way From Chicago. During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois. There, she comes to better understand this fearsome woman.

Crispin: the Story of Lead  By Avi
First in the Crispin series. 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.
Elijah of Buxton By Christopher Paul Curtis
In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills find the lying preacher who stole money from a man who was trying to buy his family’s freedom.

One Crazy Summer By Rita-Garcia Williams
In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn, NY to Oakland, California to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

Roll of Thunder, Hear me Cry By Mildred D. Taylor
A black family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination that the children do not understand.

Towers Fallen By Jewell Parker Rhodes
While learning about September 11th, fifth grader Dèja (who was born after the attacks) realizes how much the events still color her world.

Witch of Blackbird Pond By Elizabeth George Pond
When Kit visits her Puritan relatives in Connecticut, she soon finds herself under suspicion for befriending a witch.

Al Capone Does my Shirts By Gennifer Choldenko
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. Sequel is Al Capone Shines My Shoes.

Catherine, called Birdy By Karen Cushman
The thirteen-year-old 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.
**Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy** By Gary Schmidt
In 1911 Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers, including Turner’s, want to change into a tourist spot.

**Out of the Dust** By Karen Hesse
In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relays the hardships of living on her family’s wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Great Depression.

**The Shakespeare Stealer** By Gary Blackwood
First in the Shakespeare Stealer series. A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare’s acting troupe in order to steal the script of “Hamlet,” but he instead discovers the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

**Stones in Water** By Donna Jo Napoli
After being taken by German soldiers from a local movie theater, along with other Italian boys including his Jewish friend, Roberto is forced to work in Germany. He escapes into the Ukrainian winter before desperately trying to make his way back home to Venice.

**War Horse** By Michael Morpurgo
Joey the horse describes his experiences growing up on an English farm, his struggle for survival as a cavalry horse during World War I, and his reunion with his beloved master.

**War that Saved My Life** By Kimberly Bradley
A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

**Wolf Hollow** By Lauren Wolk
Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran.
**Code Talker** By Joseph Bruchac
After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, who send secret messages during World War II in their native tongue.

**A Corner of the Universe** By Ann M. Martin
The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at the carnival that comes to Hattie’s small town.

**The Devil’s Arithmetic** By Jane Yolen
Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.

**The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate** By Jacqueline Kelly
In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery.

**My Brother Sam is Dead** By James Lincoln Collier
Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

**Fever 1793** By Laurie Halse Anderson
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 a yellow fever epidemic.