

Books by Decade, Twentieth Century

1900-1909

Gregory, Kristiana

Earthquake at Dawn

Teen Center Fic

A novelization of twenty-two-year-old photographer Edith Irvine's experiences in the aftermath of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, as seen through the eyes of fifteen-year-old Daisy, a fictitious traveling companion.

Lavender, William

Aftershocks

Teen Center Fic

In San Francisco from 1903 to 1908, teenager Jessie Wainwright determines to reach her goal of becoming a doctor while also trying to care for the illegitimate child of a liaison between her father and their Chinese maid.

Nixon, Joan Lowery

Land of Hope

Children's Fiction

Rebekah, a fifteen-year-old Jewish immigrant arriving in New York City in 1902, almost abandons her dream of getting an education when she is forced to work in a sweatshop.

Nixon, Joan Lowery

Land of Promise

Children's Fiction

In 1902 fifteen-year-old Rose travels from Ireland to join family members in Chicago, where she must use all her resources to deal with her father's drinking and her brothers' dangerous involvement in politics.

Yep, Laurence

Dragonwings

Teen Ctr. Pbk/J Fiction

In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine.

1910-1919

Hamley, Dennis

Without Warning, Ellen's Story

Teen Center Fic

An English working-class girl comes of age during World War I, as she witnesses the horrors of war and decides to become a nurse on the front lines.

Hesse, Karen

Letters from Rifka

Children's Fiction

In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left in Belgium for a while when the others emigrate to America.

Ingold, Jeanette

Pictures - 1918

Teen Center Fic

Coming of age in a rural Texas community in 1918, fifteen-year-old Asia assists in the local war effort, contemplates romance with a local boy, and expands her horizons through her pursuit of photography.

Miller, Sarah Elizabeth

Miss Spitfire

Teen Center Fic

At age twenty-one, partially-blind, lonely but spirited Annie Sullivan travels from Massachusetts to Alabama to try and teach six-year-old Helen Keller, deaf and blind since age two, self-discipline and communication skills. Includes historical notes and timeline.

Peck, Richard

Ghosts I Have Been

Children's Fiction

Blossom Culp's gift of second sight, which she discovers gradually, leads her into some unusual adventures.

Rostkowski, Margaret

After the Dancing Days

Teen Corner Pbk. (M)

A forbidden friendship with a badly disfigured soldier in the aftermath of World War I forces thirteen-year-old Annie to redefine the word "hero" and to question conventional ideas of patriotism.

Continued...

Schmidt, Gary D. Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy Teen Ctr. Fic

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--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

1920s

Collier, James. The Jazz Kid Children's Fiction

Playing the coronet is the first thing that twelve-year-old Paulie Horvath has taken seriously, but his obsession with becoming a jazz musician leads him into conflict with his parents and into the tough underworld of Chicago in the 1920s.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott Jazz Age Stories Fiction

The offshore pirate -- The ice palace -- Head and shoulders -- The cut-glass bowl -- Bernice bobs her hair -- Benediction -- Dalrymple goes wrong -- The four fists -- The jelly-bean -- The camel's back -- May Day -- Porcelain and pink.

Laskas, Gretchen Moran The Miner's Daughter Teen Center Fic

Sixteen-year-old Willa, living in a Depression-era West Virginia mining town, works hard to help her family, experiences love and friendship, and finds an outlet for her writing when her family becomes part of the Arthurdale, West Virginia, community supported by Eleanor Roosevelt.

Levine, Gail Carson Dave at Night Children's Fiction

When orphaned Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music- and culture-filled world of the Harlem Renaissance.

Myers, Walter Dean Harlem Summer Teen Center Fic

In 1920s Harlem, sixteen-year-old Mark Purvis, an aspiring jazz saxophonist, gets a summer job as an errand boy for the publishers of the groundbreaking African American magazine, "The Crisis," but soon finds himself on the enemy list of mobster Dutch Shultz.

Ritter, John Choosing Up Sides Children's Fiction

In 1921 thirteen-year-old Luke finds himself torn between accepting his left-handedness or conforming to the belief of his preacher-father that such a condition is evil and must be overcome.

1930s

Curtis, Christopher Paul Bud, Not Buddy Teen Ctr Fic/ Children's Fiction

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--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

DeFelice, Cynthia Nowhere to Call Home Children's Fiction

When her father kills himself after losing his money in the stock market crash, twelve-year-old Frances, now a penniless orphan, decides to hop aboard a freight train and live the life of a hobo.

Hesse, Karen Out of the Dust Teen Center Fic

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

Hunt, Irene No Promises in the Wind Children's Fic (CDM)

A fifteen-year-old boy struggles to survive and come to terms with inner conflicts in the desperate world of the Depression.

Continued...

Wolff, Virginia Euwer

Bat 6

Children's Fiction

In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one 6th grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.

1950s

Draper, Sharon M.

Fire From the Rock

Teen Center Fic

In 1957, Sylvia Patterson's life--that of a normal African American teenager--is disrupted by the impending integration of Little Rock's Central High when she is selected to be one of the first black students to attend the previously all white school.

Hickam Jr., Homer

Rocket Boys

Biography

True story of a young boy growing up in Coalwood, West Virginia during the 1950's who dreams of building rockets.

Holt, Kimberly Willis

My Louisiana Sky

Children's Fiction

Growing up in Saitter, Louisiana, in the 1950s, twelve-year-old Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern, but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse.

Johnstone, Tony

Bone by Bone by Bone

Teen Center Fic

In 1950s Tennessee, ten-year-old David's racist father refuses to let him associate with his best friend Malcolm, an African American boy.

White, Ruth

Belle Prater's Boy

Teen Center Fic

When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives.

1960s

Curtis, Christopher Paul

The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963 Chld. Fic

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.

Les Becquets, Diane

The Stones of Mourning Creek Teen Center Fic

In Alabama in the 1960s, fourteen-year-old Francie develops a controversial and dangerous friendship with a "colored girl" her own age.

Myers, Walter Dean

Fallen Angels

Teen Center Pbk

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

Schmidt, Gary D.

The Wednesday Wars

Children's Fiction

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Sharenow, Robert

My Mother the Cheerleader

Teen Center Fic

Thirteen-year-old Louise uncovers secrets about her family and her neighborhood during the violent protests over school desegregation in 1960 New Orleans.

Soto, Gary

Jesse

Teen Fic (CDM)

Two Mexican American brothers hope that junior college will help them escape their heritage of tedious physical labor.

Continued...

Tillage, Leon Walter**Leon's Story****Children's Bio**

The son of a North Carolina sharecropper recalls the hard times faced by his family and other African Americans in the first half of the twentieth century and the changes that the civil rights movement helped bring about.

1970s**Compestine, Ying Chang****Revolution is Not a Dinner Party****Teen Center Fic**

Starting in 1972 when she is nine years old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors, struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution, which empties stores of food, homes of appliances deemed "bourgeois," and people of laughter

Lafaye, A.**Strawberry Hill****Children's Fiction**

During the summer of 1976, twelve-year-old Raleia Pendle feels like a misfit with her hippie parents and begins a friendship with the town recluse.

Paterson, Katherine**Park's Quest****Children's Fiction**

Eleven-year-old Park makes some startling discoveries when he travels to his grandfather's farm in Virginia to learn about his father who died in the Vietnam War.

Rose, Joanna**Little Miss Strange****Fiction**

Sarajeon Henry tells of her life with Jimmy Henry, a Vietnam veteran and former junkie, with whom she was left as a toddler, and of her search for the mother she has never known.

Salisbury, Graham**Night of the Howling Dogs****Teen Center Fic**

In 1975, eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii, find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes, followed by a tsunami.

White, Ellen Emerson**The Road Home****Teen Center Fic**

Rebecca, a young nurse stationed in Vietnam during the war, must come to grips with her wartime experiences once she returns home to the United States.

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