

## Travel Through Time with Historical Fiction by Ruth Gilbert, Youth Services Librarian

Books about time travel aren't the only ones that can zoom you through time. Historical fiction can plop you down right into history and teach you a thing or two, too. If you'd like to time travel through the last 150 years, these outstanding middle grade books will take you through, decade by decade.

1870s: "One Came Home" by Amy Timberlake. Georgie Burkhardt is 13 years old, a crack shot, and on a mission to find her sister Agatha even though the town sheriff has found a body wearing Agatha's ball gown. She sets out on an adventure to discover the truth about what happened to her sister, set on the western frontier during the great passenger pigeon migration.

1880s: "Prairie Lotus" by Linda Sue Park. Half white, half Asian Hanna sets out for the frontier with her father. They settle in a small town where he sets up a dress supply shop. Hanna dreams of going to school at the one-room schoolhouse, making friends, and creating beautiful dresses in her father's shop, but she faces the prejudice of many of the townspeople.

1890s-1900s: "The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate" by Jacqueline Kelly. Calpurnia is a curious and science-minded 11-year-old in Texas who would rather record observations about grasshoppers in her notebook than learn to knit. She's also the only girl in a family with 6 boys, and often wonders why she isn't allowed to do the same things they are.

1910s: "Love to Everyone" by Hilary McKay. Clarry Penrose longs to continue her education, but girls in England at the start of the First World War aren't expected to do much more than behave. When war breaks out and her beloved cousin Rupert enlists, Clarry faces some life lessons she never expected to learn.

1920s: "The Story Collector" by Kristin O'Donnell Tubb. Viviani lives in the New York Public Library and believes the library is haunted. He embarks on an adventure to find out the truth about the mysterious happenings in the building. This one's for anyone who ever dreamed of spending the night at the library!

1930s: "A Long Way from Chicago" by Richard Peck. Siblings Joey and Mary Alice are shipped off from Chicago to their grandmother's house in the sticks every summer. Grandma Dowdel is unlike any grandmother you've met before, and Joey and Mary Alice create unforgettable memories as they help her ...

1940s: "The War that Saved My Life" by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Ten year-old Ada has never left her family's one room apartment, but when war comes to London and her younger brother is sent to the countryside to safety, she sneaks out with him. Her world blossoms when they arrive to live with Susan, a woman with a big house, a horse, and lots of love for the children she protects.

1950s: "Paperboy" by Vince Vawter. Little Man is great at baseball, but has trouble getting a sentence out because of his stutter. He reluctantly takes over a friend's paper route one summer and learns he's capable of more than he thought.

1960s: "One Crazy Summer" by Rita Williams-Garcia. Eleven year-old Delphine and her sisters travel from Brooklyn to California to spend the summer with their mother, who they haven't seen for seven years. When they find themselves spending time with the Black Panthers instead of at Disneyland, they realize there's a lot to learn about their mother and their country.

1970s: "Raymie Nightingale" by Kate DiCamillo. Raymie thinks winning the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition will fix her life and bring her father back home, but as she practices for the pageant she meets some unlikely friends and her life changes in unexpected ways.