

American Historical Fiction – World War II: 1938-1945



F ARN

Arnold, Elliott

A Kind of Secret Weapon [1969].

Relates one family's contribution to the resistance movement in Nazi-occupied Denmark during World War II.

F AVI

Avi.

"Who Was That Masked Man, Anyway?" [1994, 1992].

In the early forties when nearly everyone else is thinking about World War II, sixth-grader Frankie Wattleson gets in trouble at home and at school because of his preoccupation with his favorite radio programs.

F BAR

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell

The Boy Who Dared [2008]

In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hübener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

F BEN

Benchley, Nathaniel

Bright Candles: A Novel of the Danish Resistance [1974].

The experiences of a sixteen-year-old Danish boy during the German occupation of his country in World War II.

F BLO

Bloor, Edward

London Calling [2006].

Seventh-grader Martin Conway believes that his life is monotonous and dull until the night the antique radio he uses as a night-light transports him to the bombing of London in 1940.

F BON

Bonnell, Dorothy

Passport to Freedom [1967].

An American student, in Marseille when the Nazis march on Paris, finds, when her papers are stolen, that she has no identity and no chance of leaving occupied France.

F BOO

Booth, Martin

War Dog: A Novel [1997].

After her owner is arrested, Jet is requisitioned by the British Army and sees duty on the beach of Dunkirk, searching for survivors of Germany's bombing raids on English cities, and in Italy.

F BRA

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker

For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy [2003].

Despite the horrors of World War II, a French teenager pursues her dream of becoming an opera singer, which takes her to places where she gains information about what the Nazis are doing-information that the French resistance needs.

F BRU

Bruckner, Karl

The Day of the Bomb [1963, 1962].

The effects of war on Japan and the world are seen through the experiences of one family that survived the bombing of Hiroshima.

F BRU

Bruchac, Joseph.

Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War II. [2005].

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, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

F BUN

Bunting, Eve

Spying on Miss Mueller [1995].

At Alveara boarding school in Belfast at the start of World War II, thirteen-year-old Jessie must deal with her suspicions about a teacher whose father was German and with her worries about her own father's drinking problem.

F DAH

Dahlberg, Maurine F.

Play to the Angel [2000].

In Vienna in 1938, in the shadow of an increasingly dangerous Nazi Germany, 12-year-old Greta pursues her dream of becoming a concert pianist like her dead brother Kurt, despite a lack of support from her widowed mother.

F DEG

Degens, T.

Transport 7-41-R [1974].

A thirteen-year-old girl describes her journey from the Russian sector of defeated Germany to Cologne on a transport carrying returning refugees in 1946.

F DEN

Denenberg, Barry

The Journal of Ben Uchida, Citizen #13559, Mirror Lake Internment Camp [1999].

Twelve-year-old Ben Uchida keeps a journal of his experiences as a prisoner in a Japanese internment camp in Mirror Lake, California, during World War II.

F ELL

Elliott, Laura

Under a War-Torn Sky [2001].

After his plane is shot down by Hitler's Luftwaffe, nineteen-year-old Henry Forester of Richmond, Virginia, strives to walk across occupied France, with the help of the French Resistance, in hopes of rejoining his unit.

F FER

Ferry, Charles

One More Time [1985].

Skeets Sinclair, the young tenor sax in Gene Markham's Orchestra, finds his life and the future of the band changing fast as they tour the United States during World War II.

F FRE

Frederick, Lee

Crash Dive [1979].

A German U-boat and an American destroyer fight to the finish in the English channel during World War II.

F GES

Gessner, Lynne

Edge of Darkness [1979].

Relates the experiences of a Latvian farm family during World War II when their country was first subjected to Russian, then German, and again Russian occupation.

F GIF

Giff, Patricia Reilly.

Lily's Crossing [1999].

Lily fears for her father as he goes to fight in World War II and learns the hard lessons in life when she is forced to befriend a refugee from Hungary.

F GIF

Giff, Patricia Reilly.

Willow Run [2005].

During World War II, after moving with her parents to Willow Run, Michigan, when her father gets a job in the B-24 bomber-building factory, eleven-year-old Meggie learns about different kinds of bravery from all of the people around her.

F GRE

Greene, Bette

Summer of My German Soldier [1993, 1973].

Sheltering an escaped prisoner of war is the beginning of some shattering experiences for a twelve-year-old girl in Arkansas.

F HES

Hesse, Karen

Aleutian Sparrow [2003].

An Aleutian Islander recounts her suffering during World War II in American internment camps designed to "protect" the population from the invading Japanese.

F HUG

Hughes, Dean.

Soldier Boys [2003, 2001].

Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.

F KAD

Kadohata, Cynthia.

Weedflower [2006].

After twelve-year-old Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their flower farm in southern California to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she helps her family and neighbors, becomes friends with a local Indian boy, and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop.

F KER

Kerr, M. E.

Slap Your Sides: A Novel [2001].

Life in their Pennsylvania hometown changes for Jubal Shoemaker and his family when his older brother witnesses to his Quaker beliefs by becoming a conscientious objector during World War II.

F KLA

Klages, Ellen

The Green Glass Sea: A Novel [2006]

It is 1943, and 11-year-old Dewey Kerrigan is traveling west on a train to live with her scientist father--but no one will tell her exactly where he is. When she reaches Los Alamos, New Mexico, she learns why: he's working on a top secret government program.

F KNO

Knowles, John

A Separate Peace [1975, 1959].

The story of two young men and what happened to them during their school years at the beginning of World War II.

F LEV

Levoy, Myron

Alan and Naomi [1987, 1977].

In New York of the 1940's a boy tries to befriend a girl traumatized by Nazi brutality in France.

F LEV

Levitin, Sonia.

Silver Days [1992, 1989].

Escaping from Hitler's Germany, a Jewish family lives in a New York City tenement until Papa decides to move the family to California.

F LIS

Lisle, Janet Taylor

The Art of Keeping Cool [2000].

In 1942, Robert and his cousin Elliot uncover long-hidden family secrets while staying in their grandparents' Rhode Island town, where they also become involved with a German artist who is suspected of being a spy.

F MAG

Magorian, Michelle

Good Night, Mr. Tom [1986, 1981].

A battered child learns to embrace life when he is adopted by an old man in the English countryside during the second World War.

PB FIC MAZ

Mazer, Harry

A Boy At War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor [2002]

While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack and through the chaos of the subsequent days tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.

PB FIC MAZ

Mazer, Harry

Heroes Don't Run [2005].

To honor his father who died during the Japanese invasion of Pearl Harbor, seventeen-year-old Adam eagerly enlists in the Marines in 1944, survives boot camp, and faces combat on the tiny island of Okinawa.

F MCS

McSwigan, Marie and LaBlanc, Andre.

Snow Treasure [1942].

An adventure based on a true story about a group of Norwegian children who smuggled nine million dollars in gold past Nazi sentries during World War II.

F MYE

Myers, Walter Dean

The Journal of Scott Pendelton Collins: a World War II Soldier [1999].

A seventeen-year-old soldier from central Virginia records his experiences in a journal as his regiment takes part in the D-Day invasion of Normandy and subsequent battles to liberate France. (My Name is America Series)

F PAR

Park, Linda Sue

When My Name Was Keoko [2002].

With the national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive fear, occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.

F PEC

Peck, Richard.

On the Wings of Heroes [2007].

A boy in Illinois remembers the homefront years of World War II, especially his two heroes--his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war.

F PRA

Pratchett, Terry.

Johnny and the Bomb [2006].

Thirteen-year-old Johnny Maxwell acquires the neighborhood homeless woman's shopping cart when she is injured and discovers that its contents have the ability to send him back in time from 1996 to 1941 England.

F RIC

Rice, Earle.

Tiger Lion Hawk: A Story of the Flying Tigers [1977].

Two famous fighter pilots face off in the skies over China.

F RIC

Rice, Earle.

The Animals [1979].

Confined to the hospital after being blinded in the crash of his B-17, an army officer tries to find a way to stop a German mission from bombing the Prime Minister's home in London.

F RIC

Richter, Hans Peter

I Was There [1972].

A young German boy narrates his experiences in the Hitler youth movement during the early years of the Third Reich.

F SAL

Salisbury, Graham

Under the Blood-Red Sun [1995, 1994].

Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

F SEV

Sevela, Efraim.

We Were Not Like Other People [1989].

Separated from his family when the Germans invade Russia during World War II, a young boy learns to fend for himself and earn a living whenever and however he can.

F SHE

Shemin, Margaretha and Spier, Peter

The Little Riders [1993, 1963].

An American girl living in Nazi-occupied Holland resents the presence of a German soldier quartered in her grandparents' home until the night she tries to hide part of the town's treasured clock mechanism.

F SMI

Smith, Roland

Elephant Run [2007].

Nick endures servitude, beatings, and more after his British father's plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941, and when his father and others are taken prisoner and Nick is stranded with his friend Mya, they plan a daring escape on elephants, risking their lives to save Nick's father and Mya's brother from a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

F TAY

Taylor, Theodore.

The Cay [1969].

When the freighter on which they are traveling is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, an adolescent white boy, blinded by a blow on the head, and an old black man are stranded on a tiny Caribbean island where the boy acquires a new kind of vision, courage, and love from his old companion.

F TUN

Tunnell, Michael O.

Brothers In Valor: A Story of Resistance [2001].

Three German teenagers who are members of the Mormon Church join forces to create a youth resistance movement during World War II, putting their lives at risk.

F WAT

Watkins, Yoko Kawashima

So Far From the Bamboo Grove [1994, 1986].

A fictionalized autobiography in which eleven-year-old Yoko escapes from Korea to Japan with her mother and sister at the end of World War II.

F WOL

Wolff, Virginia Euwer.

Bat 6 [1998].

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

F WOL

Wolf, Joan M.

Someone Named Eva [2007].

From her home in Lidice, Czechoslovakia, in 1942, eleven-year-old Milada is taken with other blond, 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.

F WUL

Wulffson, Don

Soldier X [2001].

In 1943 sixteen-year-old Erik experiences the horrors of war when he is drafted into the German army and sent to fight on the Russian front.

Non-Fiction (World War II) [Selected]

SC DOW

Dowswell, Paul

True Stories of the Second World War [2003]

Epic naval encounters between titanic warships, monumental battles involving hundreds of men, and duels between lone snipers facing almost certain death – these are just some of the dramatic tales in this collection of stories from the Second World War.

B HOU

Farewell to Manzanar: A True Story of Japanese American Experience During and After the World War II Internment [1974]

True story of one Japanese American family and their attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention.

B SCH

The Short Life of Sophie Scholl [1984]

The biography of the twenty-one year-old German student who was put to death for her anti-Nazi activities with the underground group called the White Rose.

940.5 IPP

Ippitsch, Hanneke

Sky: A True Story of Resistance During World War II [1996].

From the moment she agreed to work for the underground Dutch resistance forces against the Nazis, Hanneke Eikema had only two goals--to protect the persecuted and not to get caught. But after two years Hanneke--though just a teenager--was discovered by the Germans and sentenced to life in prison. Now Henneke tells her story in a powerful narrative that vividly describes an era that is so haunting to us still.

940.54 BRA

Bradley, James

Flags of Our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima

(adapted for young people by Michael French)

Flags of Our Fathers is the unforgettable chronicle of perhaps the most famous moment in American military history: the raising of the U. S. flag at Iwo Jima. Here is the true story behind the immortal photograph that has come to symbolize the courage and indomitable will of America.

940.54 NEL

Nelson, Pete

Left for Dead [2002]

This book recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis, the navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later.

943.086 BAR

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow [2005].

Describes the origin and growth of the Nazi youth organization known as Hitler Jugend, its rigorous testing and training of German boys and girls, and its use in World War II.