



4th and 5th Grade—Historical Fiction

J Blume—[*The Rising Star of Rusty Nail*](#)

In the small town of Rusty Nail, in the early 1950's, musically talented 10-year-old Franny wants to take advanced piano lessons from a famous Russian musician suspected of being a communist spy by gossipy members of the community.

J Blume—[*Tennyson*](#)

After their mother abandons them during the Great Depression, 11-year-old Tennyson Fontaine and her little sister are sent to live with their eccentric aunt in a decaying plantation house outside of New Orleans.

J Bond—[*Zora and Me*](#)

A fictionalized account of Zora Neale Hurston's childhood with her best friend Carrie, in Eatonville, Florida, as they learn about life, death, and the differences between truth, lies, and pretending. Includes an annotated bibliography of the works of Zora Neale Hurston, a short biography of the author, and information about Eatonville, Florida.

J Bryant—[*Kaleidoscope Eyes*](#)

In 1968, with the Vietnam War raging, 13-year-old Lyza inherits a project from her deceased grandfather, who had been using his knowledge of maps and the geography of Lyza's New Jersey hometown to locate the lost treasure of Captain Kidd.

J Curtis—[*Elijah of Buxton*](#)

In 1859, 11-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

J Dear—[*Color Me Dark*](#) (and others)

Eleven-year-old Nellie Lee Love records in her diary the events of 1919, when her family moves from Tennessee to Chicago, hoping to leave the racism and hatred of the South behind.

J Girls—[*Cécile : gates of gold*](#) (and others)

In 1711, twelve-year-old Cécile Revel unexpectedly gets the chance to serve Louis XIV's sister-in-law at the palace of Versailles, but instead of a dream come true, life at court proves to be complicated and precarious.

J Hoberman—[*Strawberry Hill*](#)

Ten-year-old Allie's family moves from urban New Haven to rural Stamford, Connecticut, in the midst of the Great Depression.

J Holm—[Turtle in Paradise](#)

In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida.

J Howard—[Crimson Cap](#)

In 1684, wearing his father's faded cap, eleven-year-old Pierre Talon joins explorer Rene-Robert Cavelier on an ill-fated expedition to seek the Mississippi River, but after the expedition falls apart Pierre, deathly ill, is taken in by Hasinai Indians. Includes historical facts.

J Lowry—[Number the Stars](#)

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.

J Madden—[Gentle's Holler](#) (series)

In the early 1960s, twelve-year-old songwriter Livy Two Weems dreams of seeing the world beyond the Maggie Valley, North Carolina, holler where she lives in poverty with her parents and eight brothers and sisters, but understands that she must put family first.

J Paulsen—[Legend of Bass Reeves: being the true account of the most valiant marshal in the west](#)

The story of Bass Reeves who was born a slave and later became one of the most respected federal marshals in Oklahoma and Texas.

J Peck—[A Year Down Yonder](#) (and others)

In 1937, during the Depression, 15-year-old Mary Alice, initially apprehensive about leaving Chicago to spend a year with her fearsome, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois, gradually begins to better understand and admire her grandmother's unusual qualities.

J Roy—[Yellow Star](#)

From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation.

J Winthrop—[Counting on Grace](#)

It's 1910. At 12, Grace and her best friend Arthur must leave school to work in the mill. They write a secret letter to the Child Labor Board about children working in the mill. A few weeks later, Lewis Hine, a famous reformer, arrives to gather evidence, changing her life forever.

J Wolf—[Someone Named Eva](#)

From her home in Czechoslovakia in 1942, 11-year-old Milada is taken with other children to be trained as "proper Germans" for adoption by German families.