



Novels about Colonial America and the Revolutionary War: A bibliography of Multnomah County Library resources

Colonial America

Carbone, Elisa Lynn. [Blood on the river: James Town 1607](#). New York: Viking, 2006.

[y CARBONE] Lexile 820*

Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.

Cooper, James Fenimore. [The last of the Mohicans](#). New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1986. [j] RL 10.3*

This classic portrays a man of moral courage who severs all connections with a society whose values he can no longer accept.

Curry, Jane Louise. [A stolen life](#). New York: McElderry Books, 1999. [j] RL 5.9*

In 1758 in Scotland, teenaged Jamesina MacKensie finds her courage and resolution severely tested when she is abducted by "spirifers" and, after a harrowing voyage, sold as a bond slave to a Virginia planter.

Draper, Sharon M. [Copper sun](#). New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006.

[y DRAPER] RL 5.2*

Two fifteen-year-old girls – one a slave and the other an indentured servant – escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

Fraustino, Lisa Rowe. [I walk in dread: The diary of Deliverance Trembley, witness to the Salem witch trials](#). New York: Scholastic, 2004. [j FRAUSTINO] Lexile 910*

Twelve-year-old Deliverance Trembley writes in her diary about the fears and doubts that arise during the 1692 witch hunt and trials in Salem Village, Massachusetts, especially when her pious friend, Goody Corey, is condemned as a witch.

Kudlinski, Kathleen V. [My Lady, Pocahontas](#). Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish, 2006.

[y KUDLINSKI] RL 4.8*

Nuttawgon, daughter of a minor Pamunkey chief, is still a girl when Pocahontas's vision of peace between their people and the newly arrived English colonists bonds the two in a lifelong friendship as they work together to make the vision a reality.

- O'Dell, Scott. [The serpent never sleeps: A novel of Jamestown and Pocahontas](#). Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1987. [j] Lexile 880*
In the early seventeenth century, Serena Lynn, determined to be with the man she has loved since childhood, travels to the New World and comes to know the hardships of colonial life and the extraordinary Princess Pocahontas.
- Osborne, Mary Pope. [Standing in the light: The captive diary of Catharine Carey Logan](#). New York: Scholastic, 1998. [j] RL 5.1*
A Quaker girl's diary reflects her experiences growing up in the Delaware River Valley of Pennsylvania and her capture by Lenape Indians in 1763.
- Rees, Celia. [Sorceress](#). Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2001. [y] RL 5.6*
Eighteen-year-old Agnes, a Mohawk Indian who is descended from a line of shamanic healers, uses her own newly-discovered powers to uncover the story of her ancestor, a seventeenth-century New England English healer who fled charges of witchcraft to make her life with the local Indians.
- Rees, Celia. [Witch child](#). Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2001. [y] RL 6.0*
In 1659, fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans near Salem, Massachusetts.
- Speare, Elizabeth George. [The witch of Blackbird Pond](#). Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001. [j] RL 5.7*
In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft.
- Schwabach, Karen. [A pickpocket's tale](#). New York: Random House, 2006. [j SCHWABACH]. RL 5.1*
When Molly, a ten-year-old orphan, is arrested for picking pockets in London in 1731, she is banished to America and serves as an indentured servant for a New York City family that expects her to follow their Jewish traditions.

Revolutionary War

- Anderson, Laurie Halse. [Chains: seeds of America](#). New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008. [j ANDERSON 2008] RL 5.2*
After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

- Anderson, M.T. [The astonishing life of Octavian Nothing, traitor to the nation. Volume one: The pox party.](#) Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2006. [y ANDERSON] Lexile 1090*
Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War. [Volume two: The kingdom on the waves](#) concludes Octavian's story.
- Blackwood, Gary L. [The year of the hangman.](#) New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2002. [y BLACKWOOD] RL 5.9*
In 1777, having been kidnapped and taken forcibly from England to the American colonies, fifteen-year-old Creighton becomes part of developments in the political unrest there that may spell defeat for the patriots and change the course of history.
- Boyd, James. [Drums.](#) New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1995. [j] RL 7.9*
Johnny Fraser, the son of Scottish immigrants now living in North Carolina, goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War and has adventures on both sides of the Atlantic.
- Carlson, Drew. [Attack of the Turtle.](#) Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub., 2007. [j CARLSON] RL 4.2*
During the Revolutionary War, fourteen-year-old Nathan joins forces with his older cousin, the inventor David Bushnell, to secretly build the first submarine used in naval warfare.
- Collier, James Lincoln. [My brother Sam is dead.](#) New York: Four Winds Press, 1974. [j] RL 4.9*
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.
- Denenberg, Barry. [The journal of William Thomas Emerson, a Revolutionary War patriot.](#) New York: Scholastic, 1998. [j] RL 5.6*
William, a twelve-year-old orphan, writes of his experiences in pre-Revolutionary War Boston where he joins the cause of the patriots who are opposed to the British rule.
- Elliott, Laura. [Give me liberty.](#) New York: Katherine Tegen Books, 2006. [j ELLIOTT] Lexile 810*
Follows the life of thirteen-year-old Nathaniel Dunn, from May 1774 to December 1775, as he serves his indentureship with a music teacher in Williamsburg, Virginia, and witnesses the growing rift between patriots and loyalists, culminating in the American Revolution.
- Forbes, Esther. [Johnny Tremain.](#) Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co, 1998. [j] RL 5.9*
After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.

- Goodman, Joan E. [Hope's crossing](#). Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998. [j] RL 5.2*
When kidnapped by English Loyalists during the Revolutionary War, thirteen-year-old Hope draws on every ounce of courage within her to respond to the ordeal.
- Klass, Sheila Solomon. [Soldier's secret: the story of Deborah Sampson](#). New York: Henry Holt, 2009. [y KLASS 2009] RL 5.6*
During the Revolutionary War, a young woman named Deborah Sampson disguises herself as a man in order to serve in the Continental Army.
- Lavender, William. [Just Jane: A daughter of England caught in the struggle of the American Revolution](#). San Diego: Harcourt, 2002. [y LAVENDER] RL 5.3*
Fourteen-year-old Jane Prentice, orphaned daughter of an English earl, arrives in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1776 to find her family and her loyalties divided over the question of American independence.
- Myers, Anna. [Spy!](#) New York: Walker & Co., 2008. [y MYERS 2008] RL 4.8*
In 1774, 12-year-old Jonah becomes a pupil of Nathan Hale, who inspires him to question his beliefs about the impending revolution; and two years later, Jonah makes a decision that leads to Nathan's execution.
- O'Dell, Scott. [Sarah Bishop](#). Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1980. [j] RL 4.9*
Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother who take opposite sides in the War for Independence, and fleeing from the British who seek to arrest her, Sarah Bishop struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness.
- Rinaldi, Ann. [Or give me death](#). Orlando: Harcourt, 2004. [y RINALDI] Lexile 530*
With their father away most of the time advocating independence for the American colonies, the children of Patrick Henry try to raise themselves, manage the family plantation, and care for their mentally ill mother.

*These figures come from the Lexile website (<http://www.lexile.com/>) and the Renaissance Learning website (http://www.renlearn.com/store/quiz_advanced.asp).

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