

United States Historical Fiction *Westward Bound & Gold Rush*

for
Middle Readers
9-12 years old



All the stars in the sky: the Santa Fe trail diary of Florrie Mack Ryder by Megan McDonald (find under Dear America)

Florrie and her family experience hardship as they travel from Missouri to New Mexico on the Santa Fe Trail in 1848.

The ballad of Lucy Whipple by Karen Cushman

In 1849, Lucy's widowed mother moves her family west from Massachusetts to California during the gold rush where they experience a completely different lifestyle.

Bandit's moon by Sid Fleischman

A twelve-year-old orphan is taken in by a notorious outlaw to escape her nasty caretaker and explores the California gold mining area in the mid-nineteenth century.

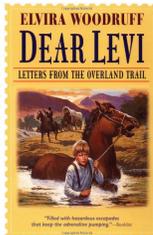


Behind the masks: the diary of Angeline Reddy by Susan Patron

While living in Bodie, California, in the late nineteenth-century, Angeline's criminal lawyer father is supposedly murdered. Angeline sets out to investigate and find her missing father.

By the great horn spoon! by Sid Fleischman

A young boy named Jack and his aunt's butler, Praiseworthy, set out on an adventure-filled ocean voyage from Boston to California at the start of the California Gold Rush.



Dear Levi: letters from the Overland Trail by Elvira Woodruff

Twelve-year-old Austin writes to his younger brother, Levi, and tells of the adventure and hardship his party endures as they travel by wagon train from Pennsylvania to Oregon in 1851.

The desperado who stole baseball by John H. Ritter

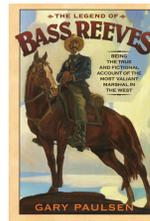
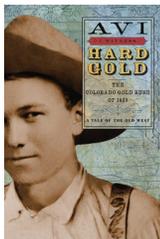
In late nineteenth-century California, a young orphan and the infamous outlaw, Billy the Kid, are recruited to help a rough bunch of Dillontown baseball players beat the Chicago White Stockings.

Emily's fortune by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

After Emily is orphaned, she sets out by stagecoach heading west to go to her aunt's house while trying to avoid Uncle Victor who is intent on stealing her money.

Hard gold: the Colorado gold rush of 1859, a tale of the Old West by Avi

While his family is struggling to keep their farm in Texas, Early Wittcomb takes work on a wagon train and makes the perilous journey west in search of gold.



The legend of Bass Reeves: being the true and fictional account of the most valiant marshal in the West by Gary Paulsen

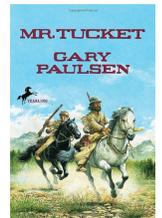
Bass Reeves was a federal marshal in the Wild West in the mid-nineteenth century who helped to keep order amongst the wide variety of outlaws in the area.

Letters from the corrugated castle: a novel of gold rush California, 1850-1852 by Joan W. Blos

After moving from Massachusetts to San Francisco in the 1850s, Eldora discovers that she is really not an orphan when she finds that her real mother is a successful businesswoman in California.

Mr. Tucket by Gary Paulsen

A fourteen-year-old boy is captured by Indians while traveling by wagon train to Oregon and is then rescued by a mountain man who teaches the boy about surviving in the wild.



Newgirl by Liza Ketchum

Amelia arrives in San Francisco with her mother in 1851 and discovers that it is not a lucrative place for girls so she disguises herself as a boy so that she can sell newspapers with the orphan boys.



The quilt walk by Sandra Dallas

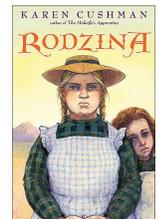
Ten-year-old Emmy Blue and her family leave their home in Illinois to travel west where her father hopes to strike it rich in Colorado.

Riding the flume by Patricia Curtis Pfitsch

Francie hopes to save the giant sequoia trees in northern California in 1897 when lumber companies are determined to cut down as many as they can.

Rodzina by Karen Cushman

A young Polish-American orphan travels from Chicago to California on an orphan train in the late nineteenth century and hopes for a new family.

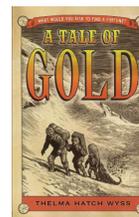


Seaman: the dog who explored the West with Lewis and Clark by Gail Karwoski

A fictional account of the Lewis and Clark expedition through the West as they explore with their dog, Seaman.

Seeds of hope: the gold rush diary of Susanna Fairchild: [California Territory, 1849] by Kristiana Gregory

When her mother is lost at sea, Susanna continues her journal telling the details of their steamship voyage from New York to the west coast and the hardships they endure living in a gold rush settlement in 1849.



A tale of gold by Thelma Hatch Wyss

James leaves San Francisco in 1897 and joins the many prospectors heading to the Yukon in search of gold.