

HISTORY

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OF HER STORY

Strong Female Characters
In Historical Fiction

Moore Memorial Public Library
2006

Avi **The Secret School**

In 1925, Ida Bidson at age 14, secretly takes over as the teacher when the one-room schoolhouse in her remote Colorado area closes unexpectedly.

Beatty, Patricia **Just Some Weeds From The Wilderness**

Trying to change the family's failing fortune, Lucinda's aunt goes into the business of producing a patent medicine. (1873)

Brown, Irene **Before The Lark**

In the 1880's Missouri, hard-working Jacey, tormented by a disfiguring harelip, takes her ill grandmother to live on the farm her drifter father had abandoned.

Choi, Sook **Year of the Impossible Goodbyes**

A young Korean girl survives the oppressive Japanese and Russian occupation of North Korea during the 1940's, to later escape to freedom in South Korea.

Cole, Sheila **The Dragon in the Cliff**

Recounts the girlhood of the woman who made many of the important fossil discoveries in the early nineteenth century, yet never received the credit she deserved. (1811 based on Mary Anning)

Dahlberg, Maurine **Play To The Angel**

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

Denenberg, Barry **Pandora of Athens 399 B.C.**

In Athens, Pandora dreads her upcoming marriage to a man twice her age, but a chance meeting with the philosopher Socrates encourages her to question traditional female roles and to seek her own truth.

Dorris, Michael **Morning Girl**

Morning Girl, who loves the day, and her brother Star Boy who loves the night, take turns describing their life on an island in pre-Columbian America.

Frederick, Heather **The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed**

Following their mother's death in Nantucket, Captain Goodspeed brings Patience and her brother aboard his whaling ship, where a new crew member incites a mutiny and Patience puts her mathematical skills to good use. (1835)

Garden, Nancy **Dove and Sword**

This is a novel of Joan of Arc.

Garrigue, Sheila **The Eternal Spring of Mr. Ito**

The fate of a 200 year old bonsai tree is decided by a young girl and an old Japanese Canadian gardener who resists being imprisoned in an internment camp after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Giff, Patricia R. **Nory Ryan's Song**

When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity helps her family and neighbors survive.

Hesse, Karen **Letters From Rifka**

In her letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left in Belgium for a while when the others emigrate to America.

Holm **Boston Jane: An Adventure**

In 1854, Jane was schooled in lessons of etiquette for young ladies, but she finds little use for manners during her long sea voyage to the Pacific Northwest and while living among American traders and the Chinook Indians of Washington Territory.

Holman, Sheri **Sondok: Princess of the Moon and Stars**

In a series of messages placed in her grandmother's ancestral jar, a sixth century princess and future ruler of the Korean kingdom of Silla vents her frustration at not being permitted to study astronomy because she is a girl.

Kurtz, Jane **Saba: Under The Hyena's Foot**

After being kidnapped and brought to the emperor's palace in Gondar, Ethiopia, Saba discovers that she and her brother are part of the emperor's desperate attempt to consolidate political power in 1846.

Love, D. Anne **The Puppeteer's Apprentice**

A medieval orphan girl called Mouse gains the courage she needs to follow her dreams of becoming a puppeteer's apprentice.

Matas, Carol **The War Within: A Novel**

In 1862, after Union forces expel Hannah's family from Holly Springs, Mississippi, because they are Jews, Hannah reexamines her views regarding slavery and the war.

Napoli, Donna Jo **Daughter of Venice**

Frustrated with the restrictions her gender imposes on her life, Donata, disguised as a boy, sneaks out of her family's house to roam the streets of late 16th Century Venice and then must confront the repercussions of her actions.

Rinaldi, Ann **Amelia's War**

When a Confederate general threatens to burn Hagerstown, Maryland, unless it pays an exorbitant ransom, twelve-year-old Amelia and her friend find a way to save the town.

Rinaldi, Ann **My Heart Is On The Ground**

A twelve-year-old Sioux Indian girl reveals a great need to find a way to help her people. (1880)

Yep, Laurence **Spring Pearl**

Called boyish by her new family for being able to read and write, Spring Pearl's "odd ways" help save the family during the 1857 Opium War in Canton, China.