
Historical Fiction

K-2

Hopkinson, Deborah. **SAVING STRAWBERRY FARM**. Greenwillow Books, 2005.

During the depression and drought in the summer of 1933, Young Davy's family is struggling to make ends meet. When Davy is tipped a penny for carrying her groceries, he learns that Miss Blake is about to lose her farm at a bank auction. With a suggestion of the general store owner, Davy spreads the word about starting a "penny auction". It is Davy's own bid of the penny that helps keep the bidding low enough so that Miss Blake can buy back her own farm.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **SHOW WAY**. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2005.

Using Show Ways, quilts with secret meanings that provide maps toward freedom, Woodson shares eight generations of her own family history as it meshes with American history. Her slave great grandmothers, sold with only a patch of material and thread, passed the skill to design "show ways" to their daughters who earned their living through quilt-making after the Civil War. With motherly love as a constant, creativity expands to reading, teaching and now Jacqueline's writing, which she shares with her own baby daughter Toshi.

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McKissack, Patricia. **ABBY TAKES A STAND**. Viking, 2005.

When her grandchildren find a menu from the Monkey Bar Grill in her attic, Grandma Gee remembers growing up in the 1960s in Nashville. While buses and libraries are now integrated, restaurants and lunch counters are not. After being humiliated at the Monkey Bar Grill, young Abby becomes a civil rights activist by handing out flyers about non violent protesting during the lunch counter sit-ins and department store boycotts.

Provensen, Alice. **KLONDIKE GOLD**. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005.

Bored young Bostonian shopkeeper Bill Howell decides to join his enthusiastic friend Joe in a search for gold on the banks of the Klondike River at the height of the Yukon gold rush of 1897. The hardships the prospectors faced just getting to the Klondike, the difficulties of transporting the supplies that were required, the conditions they encountered after staking a claim, the heartbreak of losing half of their fortune and the optimism they experienced throughout the adventure are based on the accounts of the real Bill Howell.

5-6

Lester, Julius. **DAY OF TEARS: A NOVEL IN DIALOGUE**. Hyperion Books for Children, 2005.

Day of Tears is based on a factual event-the largest slave auction in United States history in 1859. Pierce Butler must sell off hundreds of slaves to cover gambling debts. Though Emma has been promised that she will never be sold, on the last day of the auction Butler impulsively sells her to a woman from Kentucky. There she marries, runs away, and eventually gains her freedom in Canada. The story is completely told in monologs and interludes by Emma's parents, her owner and his child, the slave auctioneer and Emma herself, all conveying the inhumanity of slavery.

Erdrich, Louise. **GAME OF SILENCE**. Harper Collins, 2005.

In this sequel to The Birchbark House, the peaceful life of the village is threatened when another group of Ojibwe, starving and barely alive, arrive with news of the encroaching white people. A removal order from the U.S. president means that the Ojibwe will have to move west, away from the land they love and into the territory of their enemies, the Sioux. While a small advance party, including Omakayas's father and Fishtail, her sister's special friend, sets off to gather information, the villagers adjust to the newcomers and prepare for the future.