
Historical Fiction

K-2

Lord, Michelle. **LITTLE SAP AND MONSIEUR RODIN**. Lee & Low, 2006.

In the early 1900s, Little Sap, an impoverished young girl from the rice fields of Cambodia, wins a coveted place in the royal dance troupe and learns to dance so gracefully that she is sketched by the famous French artist Auguste Rodin. The narrative is based on a true story.

Raven, Margot Theis. (illus. by E. B. Lewis). **NIGHT BOAT TO FREEDOM**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006.

At the request of his Granny Judith, Christmas John, a twelve-year-old slave in Kentucky, risks his life to take runaways across a river to Ohio. Based on slave narratives recorded in the 1930s, this story rings true and gives a powerful glimpse into the lives of slaves trying to escape to a better life.

3-4

Borden, Louise. **ACROSS THE BLUE PACIFIC**. Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Molly reminisces about her neighbor, Ted, who went away to war in 1943 when Molly was in third grade. Unfortunately, Ted died two years later in a submarine explosion. This story speaks to the far-reaching effects of war and the healing power of memory and may touch a chord with children who have loved ones serving overseas.

Lee, Milly. **LANDED**. Frances Foster Books, 2006.

After leaving his village in China, twelve-year-old Sun is held for a month at Angel Island, San Francisco. He must memorize minute details about his home in China to prove that he is his merchant father's true son. Based on the experiences of the author's father-in-law, the book uses words and illustrations to effectively portray a neglected and shameful era in United States history.

5-6

Lisle, Janet Taylor. **BLACK DUCK**. Philomel, 2006.

Ruben Hart, now an old man, tells the story of how his family got caught up in the violent competition to control the rum-smuggling trade near Newport, Rhode Island. As Ruben recalls those dangerous days, the narrative flashes back to 1929 when fourteen-year-old Ruben and friend Jeddy discover a man's body, which later disappears. The story effectively shows the difficulty of staying honest when everyone else is breaking the law.

Roy, Jennifer. **YELLOW STAR**. Marshall Cavendish, 2006.

From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation. This is a touching and moving story told in first person free verse, based on the true experiences of a young girl (the author's aunt).