

## Heritage Sylvania Suggested Reading List for children about the Underground Railroad, Slavery and the struggle for Civil Rights.

Below is a list of just some of the wonderful books for students of all ages and reading levels that deal with the historical period of the Underground Railroad.

***American Girl: Addy Series.*** American Girl Publishers

Through this series of chapter books and short stories, readers are introduced to Addy Walker, a young slave girl living during the time of the Civil War. The books trace her struggles and journey to freedom. Titles in the Series include: ***Addy Finding Freedom***, ***Addy Learns a Lesson: A School Story***, ***Addy's Surprise: A Christmas Story*** and ***Changes for Addy: A Winter Story***. Grades 2 - 6

Burg, Ann E. ***Unbound.*** Scholastic Press: 2018

A former English teacher turned award winning author, Ann Burg traces the story of Grace, a young slave girl whose protest over her treatment leads to her family needing to flee in the night. They find refuge in the Great Dismal Swamp in the coastal plain region of Virginia among many other escapees who created 'maroon' communities there. Grades 3 - 7

Bryan, Ashley. ***Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams.*** Atheneum Press. 2016

This Coretta Scott King Award winner uses original slave auction and plantation estate documents to provide a moving and powerful picture book. It juxtaposes the monetary value of the slave as object with the priceless value of the individual life and dreams that could never be taken away. Ages 6 – 10

Cole, Henry. ***Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad.*** Scholastic, Inc. 2016.

Not a word is spoken in this tale of a little southern girl who lives with her mother and grandparents on a farm while her father is fighting in the Civil War. While doing her chores in the chicken coop, she discovers someone hiding among the cornstalks. Grades: Preschoolers and Early Elementary

Curtis, Christopher Paul. ***Elijah of Buxton.*** New York, Scholastic, Inc. 2007.

Elijah was the first free-born baby in Buxton. He lives with his parents who escaped slavery. The first part of this book tells funny and poignant tales about his ordinary life. The second part relates the story of the theft of money from Elijah's friend Mr. Leroy and Elijah's efforts to help him. Grades: Middle School

Curtis, Christopher Paul. ***The Journey of Little Charlie.*** New York., Scholastic, Inc. 2018.

Twelve-year-old Charlie is down on his luck. His dad just died, the share crops are dry and the most fearsome man in Possum Moan, Cap'n Buck, says Charlie's dad owed him a lot of money.

Fearing for his life, Charlie strikes a deal to repay his father's debt by accompanying Cap'n Buck to Detroit in pursuit of stolen goods. There, Charlie comes face to face with fugitive slaves. Torn between his guilty conscience and his survival instinct, Charlie needs to figure out his next move. Grades: Middle School.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Madman of Piney Woods*. New York: Scholastic, Inc. 2014. Benji and Red couldn't be more different. They aren't friends. They don't even live in the same town, but their fates are entwined. A chance meeting leads the boys to discover that they have more in common than meets the eye. Both of them have encountered a strange person in the forest watching them and tracking them. Could the Madman of Piney Woods be real? Grades 3-7

Draper, Sharon M. *Copper Sun*. New York: Atheneum Press for Young Readers, 2006. Engaged to a handsome man in her tribe, adored by her family and living in a beautiful village, Amari's life seemed perfect until everything changed. She finds her family brutally murdered and herself dragged away to a slave ship where she ends up in the Carolinas. Finding a chance to escape to freedom, Amari and her friend Polly flee to Fort Mose, Florida where they hope to find sanctuary. Draper creates an action-packed story rich with historic details and multi-faceted characters. Grades 7 and up.

Hamilton, Virginia. *The House of Dies Drear*. Aladdin Press. (reprint 2006) Thomas knew his new home in Ohio held secrets. The large gray house, according to legend, was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Within its dark passages, ghosts were said to roam. The mystery of the home is revealed in the thrilling final sequence. Ages: Teen - young adult.

Levine, Ellen. *Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad*. Scholastic, Inc. 2016. Based on a true story, this award-winning children's book follows the story of Henry, born into slavery on a Maryland Plantation and his daring and truly unique escape to Philadelphia. Grades: K – 3

McKissack, Patricia & McKissack, Frederick. *The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural*. New York: Yearling Press, 2001. The half hour before twilight known as the dark-thirty is a mystical time ripe for stories to be told. This is a collection of 10 tales of suspense and the supernatural set in the time period around the Civil War in the south. Illustrated by award winning artist Brian Pinkney. Grades 3-7

Nelson, Kadir. *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans*. Balzer + Bray Publishers: 2013

Nelson, a multi-award-winning illustrator and author, shares the story about the men, women and children who toiled in the hot sun picking cotton; about an America torn apart by Jim Crow; about people of all colors who banded together to help a child get an education. This is a story of discrimination and broken promises but also of determination and triumphs. Includes eight pages of discussion and curriculum material. Grades 1 – 4.

Ransome, James E. *The Bell Rang*. New York: Athenium Books for Young Readers, 2019.

A young slave girl witnesses the heartbreak and hopefulness of her family and their plantation community when her brother escapes for freedom. This is a Coretta Scott King Award winner. K - 3

Ransome, Lesa Cline. *Before She was Harriet*. New York Holiday House, 2017.

This beautifully illustrated book details the life of Harriet Tubman through the many names she was known by through the chapters of her life. K - 3