

**Non-Fiction**

Abbink, Emily. *California Missions: Missions of the Monterey Bay Area*.

Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

This is part of a six-volume series that offers a balanced treatment of a complex chapter of California history. This volume includes information on the Carmel, Santa Cruz, and San Juan Bautista missions, along with brief descriptions of the life of the Ohlone Indians. [IP, 2005]

Ada, Alma Flor. *Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish and English*.

Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1997. Gr. K-5

Twenty-seven bilingual poems and luminescent gouache paintings in rich earthy hues present the bounty of crops in California and the agricultural laborers who harvest them. Letters from the Spanish alphabet begin poems about the bounty of the harvest - and honor, pride, family, friends, history, and heritage. 1998 Pura Belpre Honor. [IP, 2005]

Alarcon, Francisco. *Iguanas in the Snow and Other Winter Poems/ Iguanas en Nieva y Otros Poemas de Invierno*.

Children's Book Press, 2001.

A rhythmical free-verse frolic through winter in northern California. The poems, in Spanish and English, reflecting seasonal activities in San Francisco's neighborhoods, one's first experience with snow in the Sierra Nevada, and a migrant family's plan to return to Mexico and the end of the crop season. Dancing, smiling kids and families, and iguanas, too, spill out of brightly colored full-page illustrations. A joyful, upbeat read aloud. 2002 ALA Notable; 2002 Pura Belpre Honor. [IP, 2005]

Ancona, George. *Barrio: Jose's Neighborhood*.

Harcourt Brace, 1998. Gr. 5-8

An enchanting essay concerning cultural diversity in the Mission District of San Francisco, highlighting the many immigrant cultures that have melted together to form the "Barrio." Through the eyes of an 8-year-old boy, we experience the surrounding shops, murals, playgrounds, and family life. 2000 Pura Belpre Honor. [IP, 2005]

Argueta, Jorge. *A Movie in My Pillow / Una pelicula en mi almohada*. Illus. by Elizabeth Gómez.

Children's Book Press, 2001. Gr. 2-6

Heartfelt and poignant, Jorge Argueta relates through poetry his childhood after his family flees war-torn El Salvador and comes to the colorful, multicultural barrio of San Francisco's Mission District. The poet evocatively describes emotions, events, memories and setting. Boldly colored illustrations accentuate the poems. [IP, 2005]

Arnold, Caroline. *On the Brink of Extinction: The California Condor*.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993. Gr. 4-8

Arnold and photographer Michael Wallace, curator of birds at the Los Angeles Zoo, look at the work being done to restore California condors and rescue them from certain extinction. Filled with incredible photographs and detailing the efforts involved in saving a species, Arnold and Wallace show the grace, strength, and beauty of the condors and the difficulty of saving them. An excellent look at the survival of a species. [IP, 2005]

Arnold, Caroline. *Stories in Stone: Rock Art Pictures by Early Americans*. Clarion, 1996. Gr. 3-6

Ancient Native American tribes made over 100,000 fascinating examples of rock art found in the canyons of the Coso Range of the Mojave Desert of Eastern California. Arnold, in lucid text, speculates on the meaning of the art and the lives of its creators. Beautiful close-up color photos of petroglyphs depicting people, animals, and abstract symbols stimulate the reader's imagination. [IP, 2005]

Aston, Dianna Hutts. *Dream Something Big: The Story of the Watts Towers*. Illus. by Susan L. Roth. Dial Books, 2011. Gr. 2-7

In Watts, California, over a period of many years, a man known to all as Uncle Sam spends his free time collecting broken bits of pottery, glass, and other scraps and turning them into a work of art. 2012 ALA Notable Children's Books.

Atkin, S. Beth. *Voices from the Fields: Children of Migrant Farmworkers Tell Their Stories*. Little, Brown, 1993. Gr. 5-8

Photographs, poems, and interviews with nine children who reveal the hardships and hopes of Mexican-American migrant farm workers and their families. [IP, 2005]

Bean, Lowell John and Lisa Bourgeault. *The Cahuilla*. Chelsea House, 1989. Gr. 6-8

Bean and Bourgeault focus on the history and culture of the Cahuilla Indians, who first traveled to their home in what is now Southern California over 2000 years ago. [OP]

Behrens, June. *California Missions: Missions of the Central Coast*. Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

This is part of a new six-volume series that offers a balanced treatment of a complex chapter of California history. Santa Barbara, La Purisima Concepcion, and Santa Ines missions are included, along with brief descriptions of life among the Chumash Indians. [IP, 2005]

Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. *Cesar: Si Se Puede! Yes, We Can!* Illus. by David Diaz. Marshall Cavendish, 2004. Gr. 2-8

Written in 19 short, free-verse poems, the life of Cesar Chavez is presented from his birth to his death. The format is unique for a biography, and because of this the book is dramatic and effective. Sunny and stylized, the computer-generated artwork by David Diaz extend the details of the short poems. An excellent companion to Kathleen Krull's book *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*. Extensive endnotes. 2005 ALA Notable Books for Children.

Blake, Arthur. *The Gold Rush of 1849: Staking a Claim in California*. Millbrook Press, 1995. Gr. 3-6

This short history of the California Gold Rush begins with the initial discovery of gold. In eight chapters, readers learn about the many individuals involved in the Gold Rush, California's drive towards statehood, and everyday life in California during this volatile time. Illustrated and indexed and with a chronology and bibliography.

Blashfield, Jean F. *California Gold Rush*.

Compass Point, 2000. Gr. 2-4

This 48-page book, written so that a good second- or third-grade reader could access it, describes the discovery of gold in California, the rush to the area by those seeking wealth, and how the Gold Rush sparked the state's development. Given the brevity of the text, Blashfield does a commendable job in making the Gold Rush understandable to the intended audience. Color and b/w photos and illustrations are attractively interspersed. Appended are a glossary, time line, list of important people, bibliography, webliography, and index and more.

Blumberg, Rhoda. *Full Steam Ahead: The Race to Build a Transcontinental Railroad*.

National Geographic, 1996. Gr. 6-YA

In addition to describing the colorful politics and the monumental engineering feats, Blumberg depicts the pageantry of this epic venture: the rowdy frontier towns, the con artists, and the visionaries, including California's "Big Four" (Crocker, Hopkins, Huntington and Stanford.)  
1997 Orbis Pictus Honor Book.

Blumberg, Rhoda. *The Great American Gold Rush*. (1990 Beatty Award)

Bradbury Press, 1989. Gr. 4-8

Rhoda Blumberg vividly describes the emigration of people from all over the world to California's gold country in the 1840s. Her impeccable research and abundant use of primary source material and documents give this historical account a lively and fresh appeal. 1990 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1990 Orbis Pictus Honor Book. [OP]

Bosveld, Jane. *While a Tree Was Growing*. Illus. by Daniel O'Leary.

American Museum of Natural History/Workman, 1997 Gr. 4-8

While a giant sequoia tree is growing on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, the Shang dynasty rules in China (1500 B.C.), the statue of the Venus de Milo is sculpted (130 B.C.), Gutenberg invents the printing press (1450), and U.S. military spacecraft photographs show what may be ice on the moon (1996). These events of world history are given on a time line that runs along the bottom of the pages of text, which describe the tree's growth and changing environment. Through this juxtaposition of the tree's growth with a chronology of world events, readers are humbled and awed by the longevity and survival of these majestic trees.

Bowler, Sarah. *Father Junipero Serra and the California Missions*.

Child's World, 2003. Gr. 3-6

A simple, fair, and balanced overview that shows Fr. Serra as a small but heroic figure, trying to convert but also help the Native Americans, as he jostled with the cruel civil administrator, Pedro Fages and some of the soldiers who mistreated the Indians. The book is sympathetic to both Serra and the Indians, some of whom chafed under the enclosed mission system.

Brimmer, Larry. *Angel Island*.

Children's Press, 2001.

A bittersweet story of this western immigration point, now a California state park in the San Francisco Bay. For thirty years, 1910-1940, immigrants from primarily China and Japan, as well as Russia, Central and South America came to the Angel Island Immigration Station. This station, controversial from the start, offered prison-like living conditions and unfair treatment of

its predominantly Asian occupants. The devastating treatment of Chinese immigrants was well established by 1910, and the story provides background on this, as well as identification of unjust legislation enacted against them and, eventually, other members of the Asian community.

Brimner, Larry Dane. *A Migrant Family*

Lerner, 1992. Gr. 4-6

Shows the poverty in the daily life of Californians who are migrant farm workers. Part of the *In My Shoes* series.

Brimner, Larry Dane. *Strike!: The farm workers' fight for their rights.*

Calkins Creek Books, 2014. Gr. 5-8

This oversized nonfiction book explains the importance of César Chávez and the United Farm Workers of America. It uses big pictures, primary source documents, bilingual quotes and interviews to express the fight and lives of California farm workers. This book will help middle school students on reports on this important part of California's history.

Brower, Pauline. *California Missions: Missions of the Inland Valleys.*

Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

This is part of a six-volume series that offers a balanced treatment of a complex chapter of California history. Brower describes San Antonia de Padua, San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, Nuestra Senora de la Soledad, and San Miguel Archangel missions. There is also background information on the life of the inland valley Indian tribes.

Brown, Don. *Gold! Gold from the American River!*

Flash Point, 2011. Gr. 3-5

This book showcases the history of the California gold rush -- the journey to California, the process of panning for gold, and how it affected many different people. Some made their fortunes, while others spent every dime they had on overpriced supplies then had no luck finding gold. The author highlights not just the usual prospectors, but also women and how this period in history affected the California Indians. Included are firsthand accounts and personal stories. Part of the "Actual Times" series.

Brown, Monica. *Side by Side: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez.*

Rayo, 2010. Gr. K-3

Perfect for primary graders, this bilingual picture book dual biography of Huerta and Chavez describes the origin of the Farm Workers' Union. Just a brief introduction to the subject, the dynamic full color paintings add to the piece, and the book works as a jumping off point for teachers to introduce the Chavez holiday. Note at the end gives more information on the subjects.

Brown, Tricia. *The City by the Bay: A Magical Journey Around San Francisco*

Chronicle Books, 1993. Gr. 1-3

Landmarks and other interesting and unique sights of San Francisco, the City by the Bay, are featured in this readable tour guide.

Brown, Tricia. *L'Chaim: The Story of a Russian Émigré Boy*.  
Holt, 1994. Gr. 2-5

"L'Chaim" means "to life" and that is twelve-year-old Zev Tsukerman's toast to this new country, the United States of America, and to San Francisco where he now lives. Unlike in his birthplace, Odessa in the Ukraine, he and his family can now worship freely as Orthodox Jews. Colorful intimate photos by Kenneth Kobre help accentuate Zev's full new life. Includes a glossary and a list of sources.

Calabro, Marian. *The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party*. (2000 Beatty Award)  
Clarion Books, 1999.

Uses materials from letters and diaries written by survivors of the Donner Party to relate the experiences of that ill-fated group as they endured horrific circumstances on their way to California in 1846-47. 2000 ALA Notable Book for Children; ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

Chippendale, Lisa. *The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906*.  
Chelsea House, 2001.

Part of the "Great Disaster" series. Using historical photographs and quotes from primary sources and eyewitnesses, each chapter focuses on daily events starting on April 18, 1906, and continuing through the subsequent fire that reduced the city to rubble and ash. The final chapter includes an analysis of lessons not learned and needed reforms. Includes a chronology, fact list, bibliography with websites, and an index.

Chin, Jason (and illustrator). *Redwoods*.  
Roaring Brook Press, 2009. Gr. 1 – 4

A subway trip is transformed when a young boy happens upon a book about redwood forests. As he reads, the information unfolds, and with each new bit of knowledge, he travels—all the way to California to climb into the redwood canopy. Crammed with interesting and accurate information about these great natural wonders, this is innovative nonfiction set in an enchanting picture book.

Chin, Steven A. *Dragon Parade: A Chinese New Year Story*.  
Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1993. Gr. 1-6

This story of Norman Ah Sing and how he organized the first big celebration of Lunar New Year in 1851 is set in San Francisco.

Christensen, Bonnie. *Woody Guthrie, Poet of the People*.  
Alfred A. Knopf, 2001. Gr. 3-8

A powerful, beautifully illustrated picture book about the wandering poet/folksinger/musician who told us the story of the people left behind in the 1930s Depression. Guthrie visited many of the migrant camps in California and sang his Dust Bowl ballads on the radio in Los Angeles. He sang of the people's hope and determination, too, in songs like "This Land Is Your Land," written in 1940. 2002 ALA Notable Book for Children; 2002 Boston Globe Horn Book Honor; 2002 Notable Social Studies Trade Book.

Cleary, Beverly. *My Own Two Feet: A Memoir*.

William Morrow, 1995. Gr. 5-YA

In this sequel to *A Girl from Yamhill*, author Cleary looks at her early days, from college in the 1930s at U.C. Berkeley through the publishing of her first book. Adults who read Cleary's books will appreciate the images and relationships she recreates as well as her honesty, and older children will appreciate insight into a much-loved author.

Cole, Jack. *California Angels*.

ABDO & Daughters, 1997. Gr. 3-6

Part of a series of histories of all major league baseball teams, this is a history of the Los Angeles team established in 1960. It includes great stories and pictures of such all-time greats as Bo Belinsky, Rod Carew, Reggie Jackson, and Fred Lynn, all of whom played as Angels.

Collins, David R. *Farmworker's Friend: The Story of Cesar Chavez*.

Carolrhoda, 1996. Gr. 4-8

With an abundance of black-and-white photos, and a text that personalizes this icon, the life of Cesar Chavez is made available to young readers in this uplifting book.

Cooper, Michael L. *Remembering Manzanar: Life in a Japanese Relocation Camp*.

Clarion Books, 2002. Gr. 5-8

Using first-hand accounts from diaries, journals, essays from school newspapers and yearbooks, Cooper tells the story of a darker aspect of American history, the internment of Japanese Americans at Manzanar War Relocation Center during World War II. With photos by Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange and others, the examination reveals not only the hardships the residents had to face but also the strength and resilience they exhibited in attempting to lead normal lives under trying circumstances. 2003 Carter G. Woodson Book Award.

Cornell, Joseph. *John Muir: My Life with Nature*.

Dawn Publications, 2000. Gr. 4+

A simply and seamlessly told life of Muir, who spent his entire adult life hiking, researching, writing and advocating for the preservation of untamed wilderness as national parks. A person of boundless curiosity and energy, Muir created a multitude of inventions in his youth, ranging from a bed that worked like an alarm clock to the "scholar's desk", a machine which "selected a book, opened it for you, and after a chosen amount of time, returned the book to the shelf." But far greater than his astonishing inventions was Muir's gift for opening people's eyes (including President Teddy Roosevelt's during a four day trek to Yosemite) to the wonder of and urgency of protecting our natural resources. Whenever possible Cornell uses Muir's words in this lyrical first person or "autobiographical" account.

Cowing, Sheila. *Searches in the American Desert*.

Macmillan, 1989. Gr. 6-8

Approximately one-third of California is desert, and Sheila Cowing includes several California searches in her account of explorations in the southwestern deserts. These include the search for outside water for the growing city of Los Angeles, the search for a river that might run from the British colonies on the Atlantic coast to California and the Pacific Ocean, and the discovery of

borax outside Death Valley. This well-documented and readable book is illustrated with photos and maps.

Crisman, Ruth. *Hot off the Press: Getting the News into Print.*

Lerner, 1991. Gr. 4-6

An in-depth look at the production of the *Los Angeles Times*, explaining how a newspaper is produced and how history has shaped today's publication. [OP]

De Ruiz, Dana Catharine. *La Causa: The Migrant Farmworkers' Story.*

Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1993. Gr. 5-8

Describes the efforts of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta in the 1960s to organize migrant workers in California into a union.

Dell, Pamela. *Gavilan: A Story of Hollywood during the McCarthy Era.*

Tradition Books, 2004. Grades 4-7

In this series title, photographs and explanations of the McCarthy era are interspersed with the story of one family whose father was blacklisted. Ben and his sister have moved to Salinas with their father, leaving their mother in Hollywood, where she is still able to work. Though the story and documentary are sometimes awkwardly juxtaposed, children will come away with a good understanding of McCarthyism and how the "red scare" affected both society as a whole and individuals. Timeline, glossary, and additional resources are provided. *Part of the Scrapbooks of America series.*

Duncan, Dayton. *People of the West.*

Little, Brown, 1996. Gr. 6+

This companion volume to the PBS documentary "The West" profiles fifteen men and women who are emblematic of the western experience. The cast of characters (which includes Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Buffalo Woman, and Kit Carson), the plentiful photographs, and the direct quotes from primary sources result in lively reading and engaging history.

Duncan, Dayton. *The West: An Illustrated History for Children.*

Little, Brown, 1996. Gr. 4-8

This photo-filled companion to the PBS series "The West" is written to be accessible to children, but Duncan never oversimplifies the events of this colorful period in history.

Dunnahoo, Terry. *Sacramento, California.*

Dillon Press, 1997. Gr. 4-6

Readers learn about the history of California as they visit restored historical places in the capital city, including Sutter's Fort State Park and Old Sacramento. A historical time line and visitor information are appended. From the *Places in American History* series.

Emmanuels, George. *California Indians: An Illustrated Guide.*

Diablo Books, 1990. Gr. 4+

Information about sixteen major tribal groups has been collected from the recognized ethnographic works on California Indians and organized into short chapters, one for each tribe. Well-selected drawings, photographs, and pictures of tribal members are included in this

reference resource, as well as letters and articles from the 1800s documenting the terrible treatment of native peoples. [OP]

Faulk, Odie B. and Laura E. Faulk. *The Modoc*.

Chelsea House, 1988. Gr. 6-8

Studies the history, changing fortunes, and current situation of the Modoc Indians who lived traditionally along what is now the Oregon-California border. From the Chelsea House's *Indians of North America* series.

Ferris, Jeri Chase. *With Open Hands: A Story about Bidly Mason*.

Lerner Publishing Group, 1999. Gr. 2-3

The inspiring biography of an unknown black pioneer who journeyed to California as a slave and became a nurse and philanthropist who owned a great deal of real estate.

Fleischman, Sid. *The Abracadabra Kid: A Writer's Life*.

Greenwillow, 1996. Gr. 5-YA

Newbery Award winner Sid Fleischman humorously spins the story of his own adventures growing up in California and struggling to become a writer. 1997 ALA Notable Books for Children; ALA Best Book for Young Adult.

Fleischman, Sid. *Sir Charlie: Chaplin, the Funniest Man in the World*. Illus. by Joe Cepeda.

Greenwillow, 2010. Gr. 4-8

Fleischman's final book is an excellent biography of movie legend Charlie Chaplin. Much of the action takes place in Southern California in the film industry, and the book features a wealth of sepia-toned photographs.

Florence, Donne. *John Steinbeck: America's Author*.

Enslow, 2000.

From his birth in a large Victorian house in Salinas, California, to his death in 1968, Florence gives the reader an inside look into the adventurous life of the influential author John Steinbeck. The text explores many aspects of Steinbeck's life, from his ongoing difficulties with fame, the press, and lack of privacy to revealing the private man behind the public persona even as he became the 1962 Nobel Prize winner for literature.

French, Fiona. *Lord of the Animals: A Miwok Indian Creation Myth*.

Millbrook Press, 1997. Gr. K-3

Stylized geometric illustrations based on designs found in ancient Indian pottery help tell this Miwok creation myth in which Coyote fashions man from river clay and bestows on him the cunning of his creator.

Freedman, Russell. *Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain*.

Clarion Books, 2013. Gr. 4-7

San Francisco native Russell Freedman tells the story of "the other Ellis Island," which served as the port of entry for Asian immigrants to the United States between 1892 and 1940. Drawing from memoirs, diaries, letters, and the "wall poems" discovered at the Angel Island facility just off of San Francisco's coast, this book demonstrates the hardships these immigrants faced in



entering this country, particularly because of the Chinese Exclusion Act. Students will appreciate that the book includes many period photographs and examples of artifacts.

Friedman, Mel. *The California Gold Rush*.  
Children's Press, 2010. Gr.1-3

Filled with beautiful colored pictures of miners and large font text, this book is ideal for first and second graders doing a school book report or presentation on the California Gold Rush. The mini-quiz at the beginning of the book allows children to test their knowledge about the material that they read and the resources section provides children with a list of websites to check out, places to see, and other books to read to gain more knowledge about the California Gold Rush.

Gendar, Jeannine. *Grass Games and Moon Races: California Indian Games and Toys*.  
Heyday Books, 1995. Gr. 5+

While the text includes traditional stories, technical information, and the history of the place of games and toys in native culture, the author states that her ultimate purpose is "to promote fun." Games covered include Indian football, playing with bows and arrows, dice games, racing, and children's games.

Gendell, Megan. *Spanish Missions of California*.  
Children's Press, 2010. Gr. 2-5

This small but informative guide to the history of the Spanish Missions includes numerous photographs, illustrations, and short paragraphs which lead students through the foundation and history of some of the oldest structures in California. Maps, a timeline of important events, and information about the conflict between the Spanish priests and Native Americans round out this book. Although not truly in-depth, this is an excellent choice for homework assignments and classroom study.

George, Linda. *Alcatraz*.  
Children's Press, 1998. Gr. 5-8

A brief history of this famous island, George uses an open format, easy but informative text and well-chosen photographs to document its infamous history. Strategically located at the entrance to the San Francisco Bay, the island has retained a sense of isolation and mystery. Beginning with its discovery and naming in 1775 (Island of the Pelicans), George describes its early years as a military fort during the Civil War, carefully chronicles its most famous era as the nation's highest-security prison from 1934-1963, and ends with its current fame as a popular tourist attraction.

George, Michael. *Sequoias*.  
Creative Education Inc., 1992. Gr. 4+

Stunning photographs accompany text describing the physical characteristics, growth patterns, and longevity of the redwood and giant sequoia.

Gherman, Beverly. *Ansel Adams: America's Photographer*. (2003 Beatty Award)  
Little, Brown, 2002. Gr. 6-12

From his childhood in San Francisco to his final years in Carmel, Gherman carefully documents the evolution of Ansel Adams from amateur photographer to artistic genius. GKH 2002; NSSTB 2003.

Gherman, Beverly. *Sparky: the Life and Art of Charles Schulz*. Chronicle Books, 2010. Gr. 4-8

This outstanding biography of the cartoonist/creator of —Peanuts‡ is filled with photos and cartoon strips and features a colorful book design that will engage readers of all types. The text is equally pleasing with a frank yet friendly look at this legend, who lived most of his adult life in Northern California, near Santa Rosa where there is a museum in his honor.

Gibson, Karen Bush. *Mudslide in Conchita, Ca, 2005*. Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2005. Gr. 3-5.

A poignant and impressive addition to social science collections encouraging empathy for others in the face of disaster. Describes the small ocean-front town of Conchita and some of its residents, then describes the massive mudslide that the almost completely destroyed the town. Most interesting is the highlights on specific people, their experience, and people or objects lost forever. Excellent pictures drive the story home.

Gibson, Robert O. *The Chumash*. Chelsea House, 1990. Gr. 6-8.

Another good entry in the *Indians of North America* series, this covers the history and culture of the Chumash, who inhabited a huge territory along the southern coast of the area now known as California. Extensive illustrations, some in color.

Givon, Hannah Gelman. *We Shake in a Quake*. Tricycle, 1996. Gr. K-3

This rhyming, comically illustrated story about earthquakes is intended for young children and addresses the emotions and fears that could arise after an earthquake. A short explanation of what causes earthquakes is included, plus tips on how to prepare for quakes, and what to do when one occurs.

Gold, Rebecca. *Steve Wozniak: A Wizard Called Woz*. Lerner, 1994. Gr. 4-8

This short biography covers the life of the Apple co-founder and technical genius with a wacky sense of humor through his departure from Apple Computers in 1985.

Goldsmith, Connie. *Lost in Death Valley: The True Story of Four Families in California's Gold Rush*. Twenty-First Century Books, 2001. Gr. 5+

Documents the poignant account of four pioneer families that are eager to reach the gold fields. Traveling to California via the Old Spanish Trail, they opt to leave the security of their wagon train, taking a misguided short cut through Death Valley. The heroism of the women, descriptions of the barren landscape, dried up lake beds, cow bone soup and swollen tongues will leave an enduring impression on readers of all ages. Contains original sources, maps, black and white photographs and bibliography.

Goldstein, Margaret J. *You are now on Indian land: the American Indian occupation of Alcatraz Island*. California, 1969. Twenty-First Century Books, 2011. Gr. 5 and up

Describes the 1969 occupation of Alcatraz Island by Native Americans intending to reclaim the land and establish a community there, and details their standoff with the American government that lasted nineteen months. Part of the "Civil Rights Struggles Around the World" series.

Green, Carl. *The California Trail to Gold*. Enslow, 2000.

The author does a commendable job in describing California before, during, and after the Gold Rush, as well as the people caught up in the times. There is good use of source materials and documents which are presented in boxed format throughout the book. Black-and-white illustrations and photos are also interspersed. A time line, chapter notes, bibliography with web sites, and index are appended. Enslow books always seem a bit narrow in format to this reader, but otherwise this is a good introduction to the times for fifth grade readers and up.

Greene, Katherine. *The Man Behind the Magic: The Story of Walt Disney*. Viking, 1991. Gr. 5-7

The life of Walt Disney, from his boyhood on a Missouri farm through his building of a motion picture and amusement park empire in Southern California, is chronicled in this readable biography.

Hansen, Doug (and illustrator). *Aesop in California*. HeyDay Books, 2013. Gr. 2-4

A beautifully illustrated version of Aesop's fables set in California. Factual information about the flora and fauna of each scene is included.

Hansen, Doug (and illustrator). *Mother Goose in California*. Heyday Books, 2009. Gr. 3 – 7

This gorgeous alphabet book uses traditional nursery rhymes to showcase the landmarks, animals, birds and history of California. An explanatory section at the end, "A Guided Tour with Mother Goose," provides information about the myriad details visible in the pictures.

Hargrove, Jim. *Steven Spielberg: Amazing Filmmaker*. Children's Press, 1988. Gr. 4-8

This book covers the life and career of Steven Spielberg, who moved with his family to California at the age of 16 and went on to become the talented film director. [OP]

Harris, Edward D. *John Charles Fremont and the Great Western Reconnaissance*. Chelsea House, 1990. Gr. 6-8

Biography of the nineteenth-century soldier, politician, and explorer whose many expeditions helped open up the western territories to settlers from the east. Part of the Chelsea House's *World Explorers* series, this is generously illustrated with photographs, maps, and other reproductions.

Hart, Philip S. *Flying Free: America's First Black Aviators*. Lerner, 1992. Gr. 4-6

While this is not entirely set in California, flying clubs in the Los Angeles area are featured in this rarely covered subject.

Haskins, James. *Cecil Poole, A Life in the Law*. (2004 Beatty Award)  
Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society, 2003. Gr. 6-12

An enthralling young adult biography about Alabama-born African-American Cecil Poole. With a calm temperament and meticulous work, Mr. Poole served as San Francisco City Attorney, was an appointee of Governor Pat Brown, served as a U.S. Attorney, and finally became a member of the history-making Ninth Federal District Court in San Francisco. This biography gives an eye-opening experience into the San Francisco of the mid-1900s and beyond. What we think of as a fairly enlightened city was, in the past, a city of cross burnings and segregated housing and schools.

Haskins, James. *Shirley Temple Black: Actress to Ambassador*.  
Viking, 1988. Gr. 4-6

From popular child movie star of the 1930s to U.S. ambassador to Ghana during the Ford administration, this is a solid biography of a noted Californian. [OP]

Heinrichs, Ann. *California*.  
Children's Press, 1998. Gr. 5-8

This second edition in the "America the Beautiful" title should be a staple in all libraries, with information on California history, geography, culture, people, places, and facts. Straightforward text, numerous photos, and a detailed index. Part of the *America the Beautiful* series.

Henry, Sondra and Emily Taitz. *Everyone Wears His Name: A Biography of Levi Strauss*.  
Dillon, 1990. Gr. 3-6

This biography traces the life of the immigrant Jewish peddler who went on to found the world's first and largest manufacturer of denim jeans. [OP]

Herrera, Juan. *Calling the Doves / El Canto De Las Palomas*.  
Children's Book Press, 1995. Gr. 3-6

Mexican-American poet Juan Felipe Herrera tells of his childhood in the fields of California and the love of his family. With bold illustrations and a bilingual text, the day-to-day life of a migrant worker comes alive.

Hester, Sallie. *A Covered Wagon Girl: The Diary of Sallie Hester, 1849-1850*.  
Blue Earth Books/Capstone, 2000. Gr. 6-YA

Excerpts from the diary of a fourteen-year-old girl introduce young readers to primary sources. The Hester family left a comfortable life in Indiana and joined a westward wagon train, in search of the health benefits associated with a warmer climate. The family arrived in California in September 1849 and, after a rainy winter, settled in San Jose.

Hewett, Joan. *Getting Elected: The Diary of a Campaign*.

Lodestar, 1989. Gr. 4-6

This fascinating photo-essay follows the campaign of Gloria Molina, the first Latina elected to the California State Assembly, as she runs for a seat on the Los Angeles City Council. [OP]

Hewett, Joan. *Hector Lives in the United States Now: The Story of a Mexican-American Child*.

Lippincott, 1990. Gr. 3-5

Hector Almaraz is a young Mexican-American living with his family in Los Angeles. Although Hector was born in Mexico, Los Angeles is the only home he has ever known, and the book describes his family's decision to apply for permanent residency in the country which they believe offers their children the best future. A good portrait of a bicultural heritage.

Hinton, Leanne. *Ishi's Tale of Lizard*.

Farrar, Straus Giroux, 1992. Gr. 4+

This authentic Native California tale was recorded in 1915 by an anthropologist who heard it from Ishi, the last surviving member of the Northern California Yahi tribe. The picture book format is misleading; this excerpt from a longer story is unfocused and difficult for children to follow, but preserves the original presentation.

Holub, Joan. *What Was the Gold Rush?* Illus. by Tim Tomkinson.

Grosset & Dunlap, 2013. Gr. 4-6

Describes one of the major events in California history, the gold rush. It starts with the finding of the first gold in 1848 at John Sutter's sawmill in Coloma and ends with a chapter on how the gold rush changed America. It also includes interesting facts on a miner's life, the Chinese immigrants who arrived in search of a better life, boomtowns, and the lawlessness of the times. The book shows photographs, interesting sidebars, a timeline of the gold rush, table of contents and a bibliography.

Howell, Judd. *Wildlife California*.

Chronicle Books, 1991. Gr. 3-6

This is a photographic guide to the mammals, reptiles, and birds found in the wilderness areas of California. Part of the *Chronicle Junior Nature* series.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. *Celebrating the Chinese New Year*.

Holiday House, 1998. Gr. 5-8

Chinese New Year festivities come to life through the eyes of a Chinese-American boy in San Francisco's Chinatown. Filled with rich colors and vivid photographs, it explains many of the customs surrounding this holiday, including special foods, the importance of ancestors, the Chinese zodiac, and the pageantry.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. *Day of the Dead: A Mexican-American Celebration*.

Holiday House, 1994. Gr. 3-6

A Mexican-American family in Sacramento celebrates Dia de Muertos with traditional foods, crafts, and ceremonies. Color photos by Lawrence Migdale. A glossary and index are included.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. *Hoang Anh: A Vietnamese-American Boy*.  
Holiday House, 1992. Gr. 3-6

Vietnamese refugee Hoang Anh came with his family to settle in San Rafael, California. In this excellent color photo-essay, the boy learns about American culture and traditional Vietnamese customs that remind him of his heritage.

Irvine, Georganne. *Protecting Endangered Species at the San Diego Zoo*.  
Simon & Schuster, 1990. Gr. 3-6

Each chapter tells the story of an animal at the San Diego Zoo and includes information on the history and status of each species and how zoo breeding programs contribute to species survival. Six species are covered, including the clouded leopard and the black rhinoceros.

Irving, Georgeanne. *Raising Gordy Gorilla*.  
Simon & Schuster, 1990. Gr. 3-6

Gordy Gorilla, born prematurely and raised by zoo staff, is one of the San Diego Zoo's prime attractions. This book documents Gordy's first year and describes his adjustment to life on a wildlife preserve. [OP]

Irvine, Georgeanne. *The Visit of Two Giant Pandas at the San Diego Zoo*.  
Simon & Schuster, 1991. Gr. 3-5

Basi and Yuan Yuan, two of the endangered giant panda species, traveled from China to the United States for a 200-day goodwill visit to the San Diego Zoo. Photos and text document the extraordinary trip.

Irvine, Georgeanne. *The Work of the Zoo Doctors at the San Diego Zoo*.  
Simon & Schuster, 1991. Gr. 3-5

This photo-essay documents the work of several of the San Diego Zoo veterinarians who care for the zoo's 7000 exotic and rare birds, mammals, and reptiles.

Ito, Tom. *California Gold Rush*.  
Lucent, 1997. Gr. 6-10

Many aspects of the mid-1800s Gold Rush find good coverage in this book. The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, the massive influx of miners seeking their fortunes, the hard lives they led, and the proliferation of boom towns and their rapid decline into ghost towns make for interesting reading. Illustrated with many black-and-white archival photographs and reproductions, the book also includes notes on sources. From the *World History* series.

Jacobstein, Bennett. *Profiles of the California Governors*.  
Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

This series provides straightforward, brief information about the people, places and process that make up California. Illustrated with black and white photographs, drawings and maps; sources are not cited in this volume, unlike the others in the series. Part of the *California Government* series.

Jacobstein, Bennett. *California's 58 Counties*.

Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

This series provides straightforward, brief information about the people, places and process that make up California. Illustrated with black and white photographs, drawings and maps; sources are cited in all but *California Governors*. Part of the *California Government* series.

Jacobstein, Bennett. *A Constitution for California*.

Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

This series provides straightforward, brief information about the people, places and process that make up California. Illustrated with black and white photographs, drawings and maps; sources are cited in all but *California Governors*. Part of the *California Government* series.

Jameson, W.C. *Buried Treasures of California: Legends from California's Mountains, Deserts, Beaches, and Cities*.

August House, 1995. Gr. 4-6

There's still a fortune to be found in California, according to these exciting tales - all verifiable in part - of adventurers who found and then lost gold and other treasures, including a 500-pound silver ingot!

Jaskol, Julie and Brian Lewis. *City of Angels: In and Around Los Angeles*.

Dutton Children's Books, 1999. Gr. K-3

With colorful, whimsical collage illustrations by Elisa Kleven, the entertaining, well-researched text introduce 20 neighborhoods and landmarks representing Los Angeles' diversity, history, and heritage. Fascinating facts and the find-an-angel-in-the-picture game make this a playful choice for children and compel the readers to visit the sites that epitomize the spirit of Los Angeles.

Jeffredo-Warden, Louise. *Ishi*.

Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1993. Gr. 3-5

This short biography of Ishi, the last survivor of the Northern California Yahi tribe, is told in a straightforward manner without sentimentality. Colorful paintings illustrate this useful book, which includes a brief time line. [OP]

Jimenez, Francisco. *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*. (1998 Beatty Award)

University of New Mexico Press, 1997. Gr. 5+

Through first-person narrative, Francisco Jimenez relates his family's experiences as migrant farm workers following the harvesting of crops from California's Central Coast to the Central Valley. Twelve stories tell of a difficult everyday life in which uncertainty is the rule. While living quarters, friends, and schools can and do change overnight, family bonds remain constant. The innocent and optimistic voice of the author as a young boy allows the telling of his story without guile, sentimentality, or moralizing. 1999 ALA Best Book for Young Adults; 1998 Boston Globe Horn Book Award; 1998 Jane Addams Honor Book.

Johnston, Tony. *Sequoia*. Illus. by Wendell Minor.

Roaring Brook Press, 2014. Gr. Pre-K-3

Wildlife, weather and natural wonders come alive in the vibrant murals that depict one of

California's most unique natural marvels. Stunning gouache watercolor paintings accompany a lovely poem describing the life of California's giant sequoia trees. Striking illustrations include unique viewpoints and size comparisons to illuminate the massive scope a giant sequoia. Follow the tree's habitat through the seasons as a variety of animals interact with the giant trees.

Kavanagh, Jack. *Sports Great Joe Montana*.

Enslow, 1992. Gr. 4-6

For California sports fans, this covers Joe Montana's football career with the San Francisco 49ers through the beginning of 1991.

Ketchum, Liza. *The Gold Rush*.

Little, Brown, 1996. Gr. 3-7

Studded with primary source material and hundreds of photographs, this companion to the PBS series is a thorough exploration of California's Gold Rush era. This unique resource includes seldom-told stories of the women and children who were part of the Gold Rush.

Ketcham, Liza. *Into a New Country: Eight Remarkable Women of the West*.

Little, Brown, 2000. Gr. 4-8

Three California pioneers are included in this fascinating book: Bidley Mason, former slave who becomes a nurse and philanthropist in early Los Angeles; Lotta Crabtree, entertainer in the gold fields; and Mary McGladery Tape, a scientist, photographer and civil rights advocate who got her name from Presbyterian missionaries who found the orphan around Shanghai and brought the eleven-year-old to San Francisco in 1868. At a time when only twenty percent (mainly boys) of Chinese children in California received an education, Mary attended a school for Chinese girls on Franklin Avenue. She later brought suit against the San Francisco superintendent of schools for refusing to let Chinese American children attend school, despite the fact that their parents' taxes helped fund the public schools. 2002 ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

Kim, Katherine Cowy (ed.). *Quietly Torn, a Literary Journal by Young Lu Mien American Women Living in Richmond, California*.

Pacific News Service, 1999. YA

This slim volume contains interviews with and essays by young Loatian-American women living in the East Bay. A fascinating portrait into their lives as they and their families cope with adjusting to the fast-paced consumer culture of California.

King, Elizabeth. *Quinceanera: Celebrating Fifteen*.

Dutton, 1998. Gr. 5-8

In Latino communities a girl's fifteenth birthday is often honored by a coming-of-age ritual called the Quinceanera -- an extravagant celebration that includes a church service, huge feast and a party for extended family and friends. Weeks of preparation culminate in a celebration as important to these young women as their wedding. King affectionately documents two girls from Mission Hills, CA, as they prepare for this important day, illustrating how two diverse Hispanic cultures observe variant customs to celebrate this shared tradition. A postscript provides the Aztec origins.



Krull, Kathleen. *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*. Illus. by Yuri Morales. Harcourt, 2003. Gr. 1-5

Describes his childhood, with "every night like a fiesta," to his family's move to California because of drought, to picking fruit and vegetables and founding the United Farm Workers. A gorgeous picture book biography of the legendary farm worker and union organizer that leaves one with awe. 2004 ALA Notable Book for Children; 2004 Jane Addams Book Award; 2004 Pura Belpre Honor Book.

Krull, Kathleen. *The Other Side: How Kids Live in a California Latino Neighborhood*. Lodestar, 1994. Gr. 2-5

Depicts the life of three Mexican-American children in the border town of Chula Vista and their enjoyment of a bilingual culture.

Lavender, David. *Snowbound, the Tragic Story of the Donner Party*. Holiday House, 1996. Gr. 5-7

This thoughtful account of the Donner Party's ill-fated expedition combines historical accuracy and adventure.

Lee, Georgia and Giorgio Bacchin. *A Day with a Chumash*. Runestone Press, 1999. Gr. 3-6

This fictionalized account focusing on one family explores the history and daily life of the ancestors of Native Americans. Factual information introduces the Chumash culture, including location, shelter and food. Excellent photographs of artifacts, rock paintings, and map illustrate the text.

Lemke, Nancy. *California Missions: Missions of the Southern Coast*. Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

This is part of a new six-volume series that offers a balanced treatment of a complex chapter of California history. Includes information on San Diego de Alcalá, San Juan Capistrano, and San Luis Rey de Francia Missions, along with brief descriptions of the life of Native Americans of southwestern California before the arrival of the Spaniards.

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. *Death Valley: A Day in the Desert*. Holiday House, 2001.

Informative text and haunting illustrations by Diane Dawson Hearn introduce younger readers to wildlife in California's most misunderstood desert. Charting the course of one full day, each page reveals desert wildlife through colors capturing the time of that day: morning sunrise, hot afternoon, sunset, cooling thunderstorm, and moonlit night. Plants and animals are accurately drawn and labeled in this "Level 2" non-fiction reader.

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. *She's Been Working on the Railroad*. Lodestar, 1997. Gr. 5-8

Steam engine locomotives began running in North America in the 1830s. Women's roles, though limited, were an important part of railroad history. Stories of women working on the railroad from the past to the present, from jobs as charwomen, to telegraph operators, to locomotive engineers, are told in a lively anecdotal fashion. Although this book covers the history of

railroads throughout the U.S., many of the stories are from California. Black-and-white photographs, end notes, a glossary, a list of further readings, and an index are included.

Lewin, Linda. *Pioneer Women of California*. Illus. by Jean Tamminga  
Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 3-5

Introduces readers to five early California residents. A list of resources follows the brief biographies, which are accompanied by period black and white photos where available. Part of the *California Biography* series.

Locker, Thomas. *John Muir: America's Naturalist*.  
Fulcrum Publishing, 2003. Gr. P-5.

This picture book biography of naturalist John Muir tells how his love for the wilderness led to the preservationist movement in the United States and throughout the world, including the founding of the Sierra Club. Locker's illustrations are typical of his style and quotes of Muir are included on each opening as well as on a final spread of just his quotes.

London, Jonathan. *Fire Race: A Karuk Coyote Tale*.  
Chronicle Books, 1993. Gr. K-3

With the help of other animals, Wild Old Coyote manages to acquire fire from the wicked Yellow Jacket sisters. Set in Northern California.

MacMillan, Dianne. *California Missions: Missions of the Los Angeles Area*.  
Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

This is one of a six-volume series that offers a balanced treatment of a complex chapter of California history. Each volume describes the indigenous life of a particular region, examines the expansionist impulses behind Spain's mission system, analyzes the impact the missions had on California's Indian populations, and chronicles the missions of the area. This title covers San Gabriel, San Fernando Rey, and San Buenaventura missions, and is handsomely illustrated with colorful maps, photos, and visual aids.

MacMillan, Dianne. *Destination Los Angeles*.  
Lerner, 1997. Gr. 4-6

This book from the "Port Cities of North America" series introduces one of the busiest U.S. ports, the Port of Los Angeles. A description of the seaport, its history, the day-to-day operations of the harbor facilities, and a brief tour of the City of Angels are included.

Macy, Sue. *Basketball Belles : How Two Teams and One Scrappy Player Put Women's Hoops on the Map*. Illus. by Matt Collins.  
Holiday House, 2011. Gr. K-5

The story of the first female collegiate basketball game in 1896 between two California universities is told through the point of view of Agnes Morely, a Stanford player raised on a cattle ranch. Collins' illustrations capture the feel of the period, as well as expressing the energy and emotion felt by the players and the all-female audience -- a condition imposed by the folks at Berkley who didn't feel it was proper for gentlemen to watch women play sports. 2012 Amelia Bloomer Project.

Magley, Beverly. *California Wildflowers: A Children's Field Guide to the State's Most Common Flowers*.

Falcon Press, 1989. Gr. 4+

With color illustrations by D. D. Dowden, this field guide introduces the state's most common wildflowers grouped by types of habitat.

Marzollo, Jean. *Pierre the Penguin: A True Story*. Illus. by Laura Regan.

Sleeping Bear Press, 2010. Gr. K-3

A delightful picture book in rhyme set in the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. An African penguin named Pierre began losing his feathers, making him unable to swim or keep warm. While the other penguins brayed at him, little Pierre shivered on shore and refused to join in the group swim. But one caring biologist found a creative solution: a tiny wetsuit designed especially for him. 2011 NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book.

Mayfield, Thomas Jefferson (adapted by Malcolm Margolin). *Adopted by Indians: A True Story*.

Heyday Books, 1997. Gr. 4-9

Mayfield lived his childhood among the Choinumne Indians of California's Central Valley, playing and sleeping alongside Choinumne children. He hunted and fished with them, shared their food, spoke their language, and wore their clothes. Although Margolin's adapted, edited version for children rambles, Mayfield's book is a treasure of first-hand narrative. If there can be too many details of the lives of the Choinumne, he supplied them, but we perceive a definite, unique flavor of Indian life in the nineteenth century before the brutal and tragic life on the reservations began. Illustrations by Hilair Chism and Rick Jones are odd, but again give a flavor of life at that time.

McAuliffe, Emily. *California: Facts and Symbols*.

Hilltop Books, 1998. Gr. 1-4

An easy non-fiction title that presents all the essential information about California and its symbols using large clear pictures in a simple format.

Meyer, Kathleen Allan. *Tul-Tok-A-Na: The Small One: A Yosemite Indian Legend*.

Council for Indian Education, 1992. Gr. K-3

A little inch worm living in the beautiful Yosemite Valley is unhappy because of his size and longs to perform an act of courage. When all efforts by the large forest animals to rescue two young Indian boys fail, he is given a chance to prove his bravery. This Indian legend explains how El Capitan became the tallest rock in the Yosemite Valley.

*The Missions of California* (series).

Rosen Power Kids, 1999. Gr. 3-7

Each title in the series focuses on an individual mission, with color and black-and-white photographs, drawings, maps and historic reproductions enlivening the text. Appended are directions for building a model, a bibliography of resources and Web sites, and a list of important dates.

Morrison, Taylor. *The Coast Mappers*.  
Houghton Mifflin, 2004. Gr. 3-8

This is a highly interesting and informative account of how the West Coast was accurately mapped and the coastal topography recorded in the mid-1800s. Fraught with hazards, danger and excitement, and accompanied by rich, detailed illustrations which evoke the atmosphere of the North Coast, this is an excellent picture book presentation of nonfiction information, about which is not widely written.

Motoyoshi, Michelle. *The Filipinos in California*.  
Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

Beginning with a fourteen-page overview, each volume includes short biographies of six Californians. Black and white photos accompany the articles; a list of other notable immigrants, a timeline, interesting facts and figures, and a bibliography or resources are appended. Part of the *California Culture* series.

Motoyoshi, Michelle. *The Japanese in California*.  
Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

Beginning with a fourteen-page overview, each volume includes short biographies of six Californians. Black and white photos accompany the articles; a list of other notable immigrants, a timeline, interesting facts and figures, and a bibliography or resources are appended. Part of the *California Culture* series.

Motoyoshi, Michelle. *The Mexicans in California*.  
Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 4-6

Beginning with a fourteen-page overview, each volume includes short biographies of six Californians. Black and white photos accompany the articles; a list of other notable immigrants, a timeline, interesting facts and figures, and a bibliography or resources are appended. Part of the *California Culture* series.

Murcia, Rebecca Thatcher. *Dolores Huerta*.  
Mitchell Lane, 2003. Gr. 4-8.

This brief (48 pages) yet informative biography chronicles the life of Dolores Huerta who, along with Cesar Chavez, established the Farm Workers Association, later to be known as the United Farm Workers. Murcia offers insights into the personal life of Huerta along with details of her struggles to further the rights of migrant laborers. A chronology and timeline in history are appended.

Murphy, Virginia Reed. *Across the Plains in the Donner Party*.  
Linnet, 1996. Gr. 6+

Virginia Reed's story, written 45 years after her childhood journey, is the foundation for the text of this book. Separate chapters feature James Reed's letters written to relatives back east as he and his family traveled west, and further sources supplement the description of the winter of 1846-47, when the group was trapped in the Sierras.

Nardo, Don. *Migrant Mother: How a Photograph Defined the Great Depression*.  
Compass Point, 2011. Grades 4-6

The events of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl converge with a gifted photographer's social activism to create the iconic photograph Migrant Mother in Nipomo, California. Numerous Dorothea Lange photographs illustrate the migrant families' plight. The book itself shows Lange's impact on raising awareness of the human costs of economic upheaval.

Navarro, Dawn E. *Chelonia: Return of the Sea Turtle*.  
Sea Challengers, 2001. Gr. 1-5

This gorgeous picture book is based on a true story about how a little girl and her father save a young Green Sea Turtle along the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Its focus is on conservationism on the West Coast, with much information about sea life and the 1973 Endangered Species Act. Included on the Eureka list because of its portrayal of marine conservation efforts by some California groups.

Nolen, Janet. *The Firehouse Light*. Illus. by Marie Lafrance.  
Tricycle Press, 2010. Gr. K-4

Science is celebrated in this true story of a light bulb that has burned for more than 100 years at a firehouse in Livermore, California (famous as the site of the Lawrence Livermore Lab). Although this is nonfiction, the overall book design resembles a picture book. The folk art style full color paintings that illustrate the story are well-suited to the tale. The author's note in the back of the book specifies that this takes place in Livermore.

Novesky, Amy. *Me, Frida*. Illus. by David Diaz.  
Abrams, 2010. Gr. 1-5

A nonfiction picture book celebrating the work of artist Frida Kahlo, focusing on the time she and her husband Diego Rivera lived in San Francisco in 1930. During this time, Kahlo began to be recognized for her paintings. David Diaz received a Pura Belpre Honor for the illustrations.

O'Connor, Karen. *Dan Thuy's New Life in America*.  
Lerner, 1992. Gr. 4-6

Thirteen-year-old Dan Thuy Huynh and her family had been in the United States just four months when this photo-essay on their new life in San Diego was begun. While focusing on Dan Thuy, O'Connor discusses all members of this Vietnamese family and their adjustment to life in San Diego.

O'Donnell, Kerri. *The Gold Rush: A Primary Source History of the Search for Gold in California*.  
PowerKids Press, 2003. Gr. 4-8.

The strengths of this readable gold rush book lie in the straightforward and logical presentation of the information, making it a source that students should be able to digest. Interest is added through the lithographs, photographs, and first-hand accounts, which make history seem more immediate. A good book for both California history curriculum, and lessons on primary and secondary sources. Part of the *Primary Sources in American History* series.

Parker, Adam D. *Mountain Men in California*.

Toucan Valley, 2000. Gr. 3-5

Introduces readers to five early California residents. A list of resources follows the brief biographies, which are accompanied by period black and white photos where available. Part of the *California Biography* series.

Parker, Adam D. *People of the California Gold Rush*.

Toucan Valley, 1999. Gr. 3-5

Introduces readers to twelve early California residents. A list of resources follows the brief biographies, which are accompanied by period black and white photos where available. Part of the *California Biography* series.

Partridge, Elizabeth. *Restless Spirit: the Life and Work of Dorothea Lange*.

Viking Press, 1998. Gr. YA

Partridge presents a personalized photo biography of Dorothea Lange, as she knew Lange as a young girl in Berkeley, CA and shares her special memories of her. Beginning with her childhood years on New York's lower East Side and her early years as a portrait photographer in San Francisco, the strengths of Lange and this book lie in her powerful work as a photo-journalist documenting Japanese internment during World War II and the starving migrant workers in California. An independent woman with radical politics, Lange had to balance her important career with a challenging family life, but her words and photos resonate with her potent message and ethical spirit. 1999 ALA Notable Books for Children; 2000 ALA Best Book for Young Adults; 1998 Golden Kite Honor Book; 1999 Jane Addams Honor Book.

Peet, Bill. *Bill Peet, an Autobiography*.

Houghton, 1989. Gr. 3-6

Bill Peet's reminiscences of his childhood and career as an artist at the Disney Studios in Burbank and as a children's book author and illustrator are accompanied by dozens of drawings, scenes both from his work and from his life. 1990 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1990 Caldecott Honor; 1989 Golden Kite Honor Book.

Perez, Amada Irma. *My Diary from Here to There: Mi diario de aqui hasta alla*. Illus. by Maya Christina Gonzalez.

Children's Book Press, 2002. Gr. P-4

This autobiographical tale tells the story of the author's family's immigration to the United States from Mexico as told in her diary. The many hopes, fears and dreams expressed are probably common to many immigrants and give the reader a real sense of what it is like to have to pull up roots and move to a totally alien environment. The bilingual text is ably supported by attractive, colorful illustrations. 2004 Pura Belpre Honor Book.

Person, Stephen. *Ghostly Alcatraz Island*.

Bearport Publishing. 2010. Gr. 3-6

Part of the Horrorscapes series, this 32-page title examines some of the infamous inmates associated with the eerie events that have occurred on Alcatraz Island. Historically factual, it will spark interest in one of California's more unusual landmarks and would be a good companion to the Beatty Award winner, *Al Capone Does My Shirts*.

Presnall, Judith Janda. *Life on Alcatraz*.  
Lucent, 2001.

An account of everyday life on the "rock" without glamorizing it, explaining how the prison evolved and why criminals are separated from society, as well as crime in the United States during the 1920's and 1930's. As the U.S. Army prepared to abandon the costly prison, J. Edgar Hoover found Alcatraz the "perfect prison." Famous occupants such as "Machine Gun" Kelly, "Creepy" Karpis, Robert "Birdman" Stroud and Al Capone provide examples of why a maximum-security prison was needed for this new breed of criminal. From the first warden to its closing, ordered by Robert F. Kennedy, *Life on Alcatraz* presents a fascinating, balanced account of San Francisco's most popular tourist attraction. Maps, black and white photographs, websites and an extensive bibliography are included.

Raab, Joy. *Kate Sessions: The Mother of Balboa Park*.  
Ridgway Park, 2003. Gr. K-5

A picture book biography that celebrates the life of horticulturist Kate Sessions, who was responsible for creating the gardens and landscape of San Diego's Balboa Park. A simple book, beautifully laid out and illustrated, depicting Kate's love of the earth and her desire to share her extensive knowledge.

Rader, Laura (and illustrator). *The Twelve Days of Christmas in California*.  
Sterling, 2009. Gr. K – 3

The twelve days of Christmas in California don't have any partridges in pear trees or lords a-leaping. Instead you'll see 12 redwoods swaying, 11 cable cars clanging, 10 sea lions barking, 9 mountains rising... and much more from the Golden State.

Rayner, Richard. *The Associates: Four Capitalists Who Created California*.  
W.W. Norton & Company, 2008.

A non-fiction examination of four middle-class merchants in the mid nineteenth-century and how they rose to power and wealth by investing in the transcontinental railroad. Leland Stanford, Collis Huntington, Charles Crocker and Mark Hopkins became allied investors in the railroad development that was integral to the growth of California. Their abundant wealth, the ruthless tactics used to maintain their financial power, and insight into their often contentious partnership are documented in this fascinating narrative.

Reed, Don C. *Wild Lion of the Sea*.  
Sierra Club Books, 1992. Gr. 5-7

When George, a Steller sea lion, first comes to Marine World, now in Vallejo, he is a pup. In time he grows into his full 2000-pound size and is impossible for trainers to control. [OP]

Reef, Catherine. *John Steinbeck*.  
Clarion, 1996. Gr. 7+

In this telling portrait of Steinbeck, Reef focuses on his development as a writer. Using clear prose, striking photos, and revealing quotes and anecdotes, she explores the major influences on his work: Steinbeck's travels, his profound responses to social conditions, and the writings of Robert Louis Stevenson and Thomas Malory. 1997 ALA Notable Book for Children.

Rosen, Michael. *The Dog Who Walked With God*.  
Candlewick Press, 1998. Gr. 1-4

Told by the Kato Indian tribe of northern California, this book follows the tale of the Great Traveler who created our world with his faithful canine companion at his side. The gentle beauty of the pencil and watercolor illustrations is the highlight of this book.

Ross, Michael Elsohn. *Nature Art with Chiura Obata*.  
Carolrhoda, 2000.

This is a fascinating biography of Chiura Obata, a Japanese American artist who came to America and was drawn to the beauty of California, especially the Yosemite National Park. Ross covers Obata's childhood in Japan, his move to the United States, family life, the forced relocation of Japanese from California during World War II, and his years as an artist and teacher. Color samples of Obata's work, black-and-white photos, Obata's sketches of San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake, and other visuals are neatly incorporated into the book. Interspersed throughout the book are tips for young artists interested in depicting nature.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Our California*. Illustrations by Rafael Lopez.  
Charlesbridge Publishing, 2008. Gr. 1-4

Take a tour through California via short rhymes by Pam Munoz Ryan and vivid illustrations by Rafael Lopez. End material includes information about each of the fourteen locations, as well an explanation about how California got its name and other state facts. This book truly showcases the beauty and variety of California.

Ryder, Joanne. *Dancers in the Garden*.  
Sierra Club Books, 1992. Gr. P-3

A beautifully illustrated picture book, this focuses on the lives of the hummingbirds of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

San Souci, Robert D. (adapt.) *Two Bear Cubs: A Miwok Legend from California's Yosemite Valley*.  
Yosemite Association, 1997. Gr. K-3

This Southern Sierra Miwok "pourquoi" story relates the origin of the mountain we know as El Capitan in Yosemite. Two bear cubs are stranded on top of a tall mountain and only the brave measuring worm is able to climb it to rescue them. The watercolor illustrations by Daniel San Souci are filled with authentic details from the Miwok culture that the extensive afternotes describe. A list of related readings and Internet resources are included.

Sandler, Martin W. *Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans during WWII*.  
Walker Books for Young Readers, 2013. Gr. 7-12

Beginning with the immigration of the Japanese to the United States and ending with the redress that came decades later, this is a comprehensive history of the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII. There is great historical detail and firsthand accounts through-out. 2014 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Finalist



Schanzer, Rosalyn (ed.). *Gold Fever! Tales from the California Gold Rush*.  
Simon, 1999. Gr. 3-7

Using excerpts from letters and diaries and vivid acrylic illustrations, the Gold Rush is brought to life, depicting the treacherous routes people followed, life in the mining camps, and the end of the boomtown era.

Schroeder, Alan. *Jack London*.  
Chelsea House, 1992. Gr. 6-8

This well-written biography of Jack London uses new research and well-chosen illustrations to expand our knowledge of this famous Northern California writer.

Schroeder, Lisa Golden. *California Gold Rush Cooking*.  
Capstone/Blue Earth, 2001.

Modernized recipes supplement this overview of common foods eaten by emigrants and miners. The culinary contributions of women bakers and gardeners, Mexican and Native American traders, Chinese restaurant owners, and Peruvian candy maker Domingo Ghiradelli are discussed briefly.

Schwartz, Perry. *Making Movies*.  
Lerner, 1989. Gr. 5-8

Perry describes what happens during the production of a motion picture in a Southern California movie studio and explains the jobs of all the people involved. Crisp format, informative text, and generous use of photographs make this an appealing book. [OP]

Scott, Victoria and Ernest Jones. *Sylvia Stark: A Pioneer*.  
Open Hand, 1991. Gr. 4-6

Sylvia Stark was born a slave in Missouri, moved briefly to California, and spent most of her life living on an island off the coast of British Columbia, where she died at the age of 105. Her seven years in California were brief, but important for African-American families. Three chapters in this short biography describe her family's move to California, their life near Placerville, and a pivotal meeting at Zion Baptist Church in San Francisco that persuaded over 600 African-Americans to move from California to Vancouver.

Sehnert, Chris W. *San Francisco Giants*.  
ABDO & Daughters, 1997. Gr. 3-6

Part of a series of histories of all major league baseball teams, this book covers the history of the team that spent seventy-five years as the New York Giants and then moved to San Francisco to begin the 1958 season. This book tells of the years from 1883 on, including the stories of such stand-out players as Christy Mathewson, "Rube" Marquard, Mell Ott, "King Carl" Hubbell, and the managers John "Mugsy" McGraw and Bill Terry and many more.

Sheinkin, Steve. *The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights*  
Roaring Book Press, 2014. Gr. 6+

Just east of the vibrant city of San Francisco, California is a little-known place with an even less familiar story: Port Chicago. Once a bustling Naval base during WWII, Port Chicago is now a memorial for hundreds of men who died unnecessarily the night of July 17 1944, and a beacon

on the unfair segregation practices of the United States Navy. Multiple-award winning author, Steve Sheinkin, tells the story of 50 young African American servicemen forced to take a stand against their country in order to protect their lives. This gripping, true story was a finalist for the National Book Award and a recipient of the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award for nonfiction.

Sherrow, Victoria. *Life During the Gold Rush*.

Lucent, 1998. YA

Focusing on the way people lived during the California Gold Rush, the author explores topics only touched upon in conventional histories, such as malnutrition in mining camps, forty-niners from foreign countries, racism, vigilantes, leisure pursuits, and the effect of the gold rush on native peoples.

Siebert, Diane. *Mojave*.

Crowell, 1988. Gr. 3-5

Siebert's evocative text and dramatic paintings by Wendell Minor give a sense of the desert's continuous changes and the people who have lived there, in this poetic celebration of the Mojave Desert.

Siebert, Diane. *Sierra*. (1992 Beatty Award)

HarperCollins, 1991. Gr. 3-5

Exquisite paintings match the majesty of this beautiful poem, in which one of the Sierra Nevada mountains speaks of the beauty and timelessness of herself and her sister peaks.

Silva, Simon. *Small Town Brownie*.

Arte Cachanilla, 1998. Gr. YA

Gritty episodes from the life of a young farm worker include the near overdose of a crazy brother, riding the cock fighting circuit with father, a sweaty description of a day picking cotton, and the death of a gentle, frail friend and co-worker.

Slaymaker, Melissa Eskridge. *Bottle Houses: The Creative World of Grandma Prisbrey*. Illus. by Julie Paschkis.

Henry Holt, 2004. Gr. K-5

This brightly illustrated, cheerful introduction to "Grandma" Tressa Prisbrey is a wonderful account of this California folk artist's life and creations. Prisbrey's story is presented in a lively style that is perfect for read-alouds to elementary-aged children. Children may be inspired to create their own art from ordinary objects, and to find beauty and usefulness in objects they encounter in their everyday lives.

Soto, Gary. *Jessie De La Cruz: A Profile of a United Farm Worker*.

Persea Books, 2000. Gr. 6+

After becoming a member of the union in 1966, Jessie De La Cruz she went from field to field at Cesar Chavez's request to recruit farm workers as members, and took part in strikes and marches to spearhead social change. Soto profiles her life from her childhood as a five-year-old migrant farm worker in southern California, the hardships she and her family and fellow workers endured, her involvement in *la causa*, to her continuing efforts today for social justice. Eight pages of photographs, a bibliography and index are included.

Soto, Gary. *Neighborhood Odes*.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. Gr. 4-8

A delightful collection of twenty-one poems that celebrate with humor and insight the author's childhood in the barrio of Fresno.

Spradlin, Michael P. *Off Like the Wind! The First Ride of the Pony Express*. Illus. by Layne Johnson.

Walker and Co., 2010. Gr. 1-4

A picture book history of the Pony Express, this has maps on the endpapers, a timeline, author's note, and bibliography. Illustrated with brightly colored oil paintings, using dramatic angles, there is one paragraph of text per page. Useful for the 4th grade curriculum.

St. Antoine, Sara (ed.). *Stories from Where We Live: The California Coast*.

Milkweed Editions, 2001. Gr. 5+

This is an utterly fascinating collection of stories, poems and essays, ranging from "Almost a Hanging," an incredible story of gold miners near Sacramento, to an encounter with a sea lion near Fort Ord in "The Long Bike Ride." You'll meet "One-Eyed Charlie" Parkhurst, the young woman stagecoach driver who masqueraded as a man, devastation in San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906, "The Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island," catch grunion along the Torrey Pines Beach and much, much more. Great introduction to California's history and ecology!

Stanley, Jerry. *Children of the Dust Bowl: The True Story of the School at Weedpatch*. (1993 Beatty award)

Crown, 1992. Gr. 4+

In lively prose, this meticulously researched book tells the story of the families who migrated to California's Central Valley from the dust bowl regions of the Midwest. The book focuses on the children who lived in Arvin Federal Camp, known to its residents, and to the readers of Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, as "Weedpatch Camp." It is also the inspiring story of the school built by and for the children under the leadership of Superintendent Leo Hart. The book is generously illustrated with photographs and enlivened with reminiscences from the children who attended Weedpatch School. 1993 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1993 Orbis Pictus Award Book.

Stanley, Jerry. *Digger: The Tragic Fate of the California Indians from the Missions to the Gold Rush*.

Crown, 1997. Gr. 6+

Stanley pulls no punches in describing how the native Californians were mistreated and decimated by the European and American settlers. Dividing the book into three parts, the author discusses the native culture before the arrival of the Europeans, the rise and fall of the Spanish mission system and its effects, and the discovery of gold and the resulting influx of Americans. A chapter on Ishi rounds out the coverage. A chronology, glossary of selected California Indian tribal names, bibliographic notes, and an index are included. 1998 Orbis Pictus Honor Book.

Stanley, Jerry. *Hurry Freedom: African Americans in the Gold Rush*. (2001 Beatty Award)

Crown Publishers, 2000. Gr. 6+

Recounts the history of free and slave African Americans in gold rush California by primarily following the story of Mifflin Gibbs. Having arrived in California in 1850 with ten cents to his name, Gibbs went on to make his livelihood by establishing a successful boot and shoe business.

More importantly, Gibbs was active in helping runaway slaves to safety through his work as an agent in California's Underground Railroad. He also worked tirelessly for a decade in obtaining equal legal rights for African Americans in the California courts where they previously had been prohibited from testifying. Stanley presents a fascinating and informative look at an aspect of the California Gold Rush that has previously been overlooked in studies of the period written for children. 2001 Notable Social Studies Trade Book; 2001 Orbis Pictus Award Book.

Stanley, Jerry. *I Am an American: A True Story of Japanese Internment*.  
Crown, 1994. Gr. 6-12

The personal experiences of Shiro Homura, a senior at Banning High in Los Angeles, whose family was relocated to Manzanar during World War II, are supplemented by archival photos, including some by Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams. An index and extensive source notes are included. 1995 ALA Notable Book for Children.

Steele, Christy. *California And The Southwest Join The United States*.  
Gareth Stevens, 2005. Gr. 2-4

A history of book focused primarily on the 19<sup>th</sup> century that accomplishes what few books of its type manage: interest and humor. A reader shouldn't miss how Arizona amended its constitution to become a state. With several "a-ha" moments that you don't find in standard state history texts, this is one children will enjoy reading. [IP, 2006]

Stein, R. Conrad. *Los Angeles*.  
Children's Press, 2001.

This book is characterized by photographic images of architecture, natural beauty, city landmarks and children from various ethnic backgrounds. While the pictures are always filled with sunshine (closely resembling a travel guidebook) the text does discuss the city's urban challenges such as race relations and pollution. Additional features include a "Fast Facts" section, a historical chronology and a map.

Streissguth, Tom. *Jack London*.  
Lerner, 2001. Gr. 5+

This readable biography chronicles the life of Jack London, a young man driven by poverty and wanderlust, who grew to love books thanks to an Oakland public librarian. His short life was rich in adventure, world travel, and hardship, socialism and illness; all of which led to prolific writing and world fame. An A&E Biography complete with many black and white photographs.

Stevens, Janice. *Remembering the California Missions*. Illus. by Pat Hunter.  
Linden Publishing, 2010. Gr. 4-12

An encyclopedic look at the history of the California Missions, this title stands out from the litany of other mission books for its accessible and interesting prose, and evocative watercolor paintings of the missions, their settings, interiors, and architectural details. The legacy of the missions, their colonial history, and their contemporary significance are explored fully in chronological order; other events in California history are also discussed. Though usually classified as an adult book, this is a great title for all ages. An excellent reference or classroom resource for Mission projects and California History units, a glossary, index, and multi-format bibliography are also included.

Sullivan, Michael. *Chris Mullin, Star Forward*.

Enslow, 1994. Gr. 5-8

A short biography of the Golden State Warriors basketball player, Chris Mullin, this includes descriptions of winning games, playoffs, and a few facts of Mullin's private life. Black-and-white photos, chapter notes, career statistics, and an index round out this sports bio.

Tanaka, Shelley. *Earthquake!: On a Peaceful Spring Morning, Disaster Strikes San Francisco*. Illus. by David Craig.

Hyperion, 2004. Gr. 4-8

An informative and colorful text, based on four first-hand accounts and primary documents make this San Francisco Earthquake text for middle grades a winner. Tanaka skillfully weaves eyewitness accounts into a fast-paced, readable narrative highlighted with period photographs, reproductions of earthquake artifacts and vivid oil paintings by Craig. Breakout pages bring details of the Chinatown community, the science of earthquakes and other important details to the forefront. Glossary, index, source notes and further reading are provided.

Thompson, Gare. *When The Mission Padre Came To The Rancho*.

National Geographic Society, 2004. Gr. 2-5

Readers get a "you are there" account of day-to-day life on a California rancho. Author Gare Thompson incorporates historical details into the fictional diaries of Rosalinda and Simon Delgado and letters from their friend, Padre Ramon. Paintings and photographs of historical artifacts add interest to descriptions of daily life in Mexican California. A nice resource for those working on California state reports.

Thorne-Thomsen, Kathleen. *The Huntington for Kids: a Kaleidoscope of Books, Art, and Nature*.

Huntington Library Press, 2008. Gr. 3-6

This excellent and attractive introduction to The Huntington Library, Art Gallery, and Botanical Gardens includes numerous color reproductions of photographs and art, as well as maps of the Pacific Electric Railway's Trolley Routes. Readers learn the history of Henry E. Huntington's life and his influence on the transportation, housing, and agriculture industries of Los Angeles; discover that there are eleven gardens to explore; and are treated to color plates of the most well-known books (such as a decorated copy of the Gutenberg Bible) and art (*Pinkie* and *Blue Boy* portraits) in the collections. Sprinkled throughout are activities involving nature study, art, collecting, and history.

Tokuda, Wendy. *Samson the Hot Tub Bear*.

Roberts Rinehart, 1998. Gr. 1-4

This true story, which took place in the town of Monrovia, California, tells of the large cinnamon-colored bear who was found eating and swimming in residential backyards. Nicknamed Samson by the people in whose hot tubs he loved to soak, he was eventually captured and scheduled to be put to sleep by authorities. Through a grassroots effort that gets the governor's attention, Samson was instead moved to a zoo.

Tolan, Sally. *John Muir: Naturalist, Writer, and Guardian of the North American Wilderness*.

Gareth Stevens, 1990. Gr. 4-6

Part of the *People Who Have Helped the World* series, this covers Muir's life and influence, and is well illustrated with photographs and reproductions. [OP]

Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation*.

Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2014. Gr.K-3

Inspiring true story of a family's fight to desegregate the California public school system in the 1940's. Simplified and stylized shapes drawn from Mexican artwork illustrate the struggle for justice and equality. 2015 Pura Belpre Honor. 2015 Robert F. Sibert Honor.

Tunnell, Michael O. and George W. Chilcoat. *The Children of Topaz: The Story of a Japanese-American Internment Camp*.

Holiday House, 1996. Gr. 4-8

Teacher Lillian "Anne" Yamauchi Hori taught third grade at the internment camp in Topaz, Utah, during World War II. Her class's diary, filled with the students' drawings and remarks, is the basis for this history of life in the camp. Nearly all of the Topaz internees were from California, sent from the Tanforan Assembly Center by train from San Bruno to Topaz.

Turner, Erin H. *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable California Women*.

Falcon, 1999. Gr. 4-8

These ten California women of the 1800s – early 1900s are remarkable because “they took roles that traditionally fell outside the boundaries of what was proper for women of the era to do.” She includes famous women such as photographer Dorothea Lange, dancer Isadora Duncan, actress Mary Pickford, and mystery house founder Sarah Winchester as well as women who would be less well-known to children such as Mary Ellen Pleasant, and Tye Leung Schulze.

Uchida, Yoshiko. *The Invisible Thread*.

Messner, 1991. Gr. 5-8

This autobiography of a gifted writer is a joy to savor. Set in the San Francisco Bay Area, Yoshiko is an all-American girl who also carries the thread of her Japanese heritage. Her time in the internment camps makes fascinating reading. A big work, this is not to be missed. [OP]

Van Steenwyk, Elizabeth. *Levi Strauss: The Blue Jeans Man*.

Walker, 1988. Gr. 4-6

Success story of the Jewish immigrant whose jeans for miners in San Francisco Gold Rush days marked the start of a business known worldwide today.

Van Steenwyk, Elizabeth. *The California Gold Rush: West with the Forty-Niners*.

Watts, 1991. Gr. 4-7

Maps, period oil paintings, and photo prints enliven this story of the California Gold Rush.

Vieira, Linda. *The Ever-Living Tree: The Life and Times of a Coast Redwood*.

Walker, 1994. Gr. 2-4

Traces the life and growth of a single redwood in Northern California over a period of 2,300 years, as world history unfolds. Text is enhanced by striking color paintings.

Villasenor, Victor. *Walking Stars: Stories of Magic and Power*.

Arte Publico/Pinata, 1994. Gr. 5-8

A collection of tales containing elements of Native American folklore, Bible stories, and Mexican history - a celebration of Mexican-American identity.

Vogel, Carole. *Shock Waves Through Los Angeles: The Northridge Earthquake*.

Little, Brown, 1996. Gr. 4-6

Color photographs and simple, clear maps inventory the results of the 1994 Northridge earthquake. From lost human lives to collapsed freeways to train derailment and collapsed buildings, this book details not only what happened but why, and how we can protect ourselves by preparing for future earthquakes.

Wadsworth, Ginger. *Camping With the President*. Illus. by Karen Dugan.

Calkins Creek, 2009. Gr. 3 – 6

In May 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt dismissed his Secret Service men and sent away reporters and dignitaries to go camping with John Muir, the world-famous naturalist. For three glorious nights and four days in Yosemite National Park, the two men talked about birds, giant sequoia trees, glaciers, and the importance of preserving wilderness for future generations. Setting aside land for new national parks and monuments became one of the cornerstones of Roosevelt's presidency.

Wadsworth, Ginger. *John Muir: Wilderness Protector*.

Lerner, 1992. Gr. 4-8

Wadsworth presents John Muir through his own writing and through the eyes of others. With no skimping on details and an excellent choice of photographs, this top-notch biography gives a thorough picture of Muir and his inspiring visions.

Wadsworth, Ginger. *Julia Morgan: Architect of Dreams*.

Lerner, 1990. Gr. 4-8

Bountifully illustrated with photographs and reproductions of drawings, this is a lively introduction to an independent woman who left a legacy of over 700 buildings, most of them in California.

Walker, Paul Robert. *Gold Rush and Riches*.

Kingfisher, 2011. Grades 4-6

This book includes just about everything known about this period in U.S. history. Some interesting facts about the California Gold Rush -- merchants often made more money than the prospectors and during this time many immigrants from China came to California and started businesses. Includes photographs as well as illustrations of daily life in the mining towns; along with a glossary, time line, and suggested books / websites. Part of the "All About America" series.

Wallner, Rosemary. *Tom Hanks: Academy Award-Winning Actor*.

ABDO, 1994. Gr. 4-6

A childhood-to-career success biography of actor Tom Hanks. It includes a list of his movie and television credits. Part of the *Reach for the Stars* series.

Wardlaw, Lee. *Cowabunga! The Complete Book of Surfing*.

Avon, 1991. Gr. 5+

This Santa Barbara author covers everything from the history of surfing to how to care for boards and surfing etiquette. A glossary, list of surfing organizations, and surfing publications and schools are included.

White, Tekla. *California Missions: Missions of the San Francisco Bay Area*.

Lerner, 1996. Gr. 4-7

Similar in format and approach to MacMillan's *Missions of the Los Angeles Area*, the missions chronicled in this title are: San Francisco de Asis, Santa Clara, San Jose, San Rafael, and San Francisco Solano. Part of Lerner's *California Missions* series.

Wiedt, Maryann. *Oh, the Places He Went: A Story About Dr. Seuss*.

Carolrhoda, 1994. Gr. 3-5

A lively journey through the career of children's author/illustrator Theodore Geisel, otherwise known as Dr. Seuss. It discusses the inspiration for a number of his books and describes his tribulations, including a long fight with cancer.

Wilcox, John. *The Chumash Through a Child's Eyes*. Illus. by Kate Yarbrough.

Shoreline Press, 1997. Gr. K-2

In this brief introduction to the Chumash people, a simple text and full-color paintings compare features of Chumash daily life - housing, food preparation, construction of baskets and canoes, cave painting, and games - with the activities of a contemporary family. Sidebars add details of the life and culture of the Chumash.

*Wildlife California*.

Chronicle Books, 1991. Gr. 3-5

A photographic guide to the mammals, reptiles, and birds, found in the wilderness areas of California.

Wills, Charles A. *A Historical Album of California History*.

Millbrook Press, 1994. Gr. 4-8

This thin volume of California history is light on details but profusely illustrated with black-and-white reproductions and photos.

Wood, Ted. *Ghosts of the West Coast: The Lost Souls of the Queen Mary and Other Real-Life Hauntings*.

Walker, 1999. Gr. 4+

An outstanding, fun-to-booktalk guidebook describing haunts and their stories in missions, restaurants, historic homes, lighthouses and many other offbeat places for the curious.

Yamane, Linda. *Weaving a California Tradition: A Native American Basketmaker*.

Lerner, 1997. Gr. 3-6

Eleven-year-old Carly Tex is a western Mono who lives in Dunlap, California. Her family has a long tradition as basket weavers and Carly continues this legacy. This photo-essay chronicles the



day-to-day life of Carly and her family as well as their basket weaving. Color photographs are informal and show a tight-knit family and community maintaining their cultural identity in contemporary society. A glossary and list for further reading are included.

Yep, Laurence. *Lost Garden: A Memoir*.

Messner, 1991. Gr. 4-6

The author describes how he grew up as a Chinese-American in San Francisco and how he came to use his writing to celebrate his family and his heritage. This warmly personal account is told with humor and insight.

Yep, Laurence. *Rainbow People*.

Harper & Row, 1989. Gr. 4+

These tales were originally collected as part of a WPA project in the 1930s in Oakland's Chinatown. While all but one is set in China, Yep's perceptive notes help the reader understand the importance of the stories and storytelling to the Chinese-Americans living in Northern California. 1990 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1989 Boston Globe Horn Book Honor.

Yep, Laurence. *Tongues of Jade*.

HarperCollins, 1991. Gr. 4+

Yep again uses traditional stories from China to illuminate the Chinese experience in America, here known as "The Golden Mountain." Introductions to each group of stories explore the importance of each to the Chinese immigrants who kept them alive. Based on the same Oakland Chinatown project as Yep's *The Rainbow People*. [OP]

Yoo, Paula. *Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story*. Illus. by Dom Lee.

Lee & Low Books, 2005. Gr. 2-4

This riveting picture book biography tells the inspirational story of Dr. Sammy Lee, a Korean American who overcame obstacles of segregation and discrimination in California to become an Olympic diving champion. Using straightforward text complemented by wonderfully textured sepia-toned illustrations, the book takes readers on a motivational journey of Lee's sixteen-year struggle to become the first Asian American to win an Olympic gold medal in 1948. An appended author's note provides information on Lee's post-Olympic life. [IP, 2006]

Young, Robert. *A Personal Tour of La Purisima*.

Lerner, 1999. Gr. 4-7

Reader will receive an overview of this historical period from the fictionalized accounts of six individuals. Photographs, charts, informative sidebars, and floor plans complement the text. Part of the *How It Was* series.

Zelver, Patricia. *The Wonderful Towers of Watts*.

Morrow/Tambourine, 1994. Gr. K-3

This brightly illustrated picture book describes the life's avocation of Italian immigrant Simon Rodia ("Old Sam" to his neighbors) who spent thirty-three years constructing the fantasy sculptures known as Watts Towers. Paintings by Frane Lessac.

**Fiction**

Alonzo, Sandra. *Riding Invisible*.

Hyperion Book, 2010. Gr. YA

Yancy Apario is escaping with his horse, Shy, through the wild Southern California canyons. What are they escaping from? Yancy's sociopathic older brother Will, who threatened Shy, and attacked him with a pair of scissors. Unwilling to put his best friend's life at risk, Yancy journals their escape into the canyons, and their rescue by Tavo, a Mexican ranch hand at the Triple R Ranch. Yancy can only be on the run for so long, though, before he must confront his brother's illness, his parent's blindness to it, and his own personal strength. Written in the first person with a handwritten font and comic-style illustrations by Nathan Huang, readers intimately experience Yancy's troubles and triumphs.

Altman, Linda Jacobs. *The Legend of Freedom Hill*.

Lee & Low, 2000. Gr. 1-5

Living in Gold Rush California, Rosabel and Sophie are outsiders and best friends. When Rosabel's mother is captured by a slave hunter, Rosabel is cared for by Sophie's Jewish family. The story tells of the girls' attempts to raise the money to buy the mother's freedom before the slave hunter returns to the South. Told in a dialect that evokes the language of the Gold Rush days, the watercolor illustrations by Cornelius Van Wright and Ving-Hwa Hu help immerse the reader in the ethnic history of the time period. Readers will come to understand the character's love, bravery, and ingenuity 2001 Notable Social Studies Trade Book.

Argueta, Jorge. *Xochitl and the Flowers/Xochitl, la Nina de las Flores*. Illus. by Carl Angel.

Children's Book Press, 2003. Gr. K-4

Xochitl and her family, newly arrived in San Francisco from El Salvador, create a beautiful plant nursery in place of the garbage heap behind their apartment in the Mission District, and celebrate with their friends and neighbors. Joyous color pencil and photo collage illustrations bring the story to life. The side-by-side bilingual text enhances the story of the Central American immigrant experience.

Arkins, Catherine. *When Jeff Comes Home*.

Putnam, 1999. Gr. YA

Sixteen-year-old Jeff is released from his kidnapper after three years, to face the difficulties of reintegrating into the family life in California's Central Valley, as well as the trauma of facing friends, relatives and classmates who ostracize him and manage to make him feel guilty for the sexual abuse he endured. 2000 ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

Averbeck, Jim. *A Hitch at the Fairmont*.

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014. Gr. 3-7

The year is 1956. Jack Fair's evil Aunt Edith is kidnapped from the Fairmont Hotel where they've been living since Jack's mother's "death". Who should come along to help Jack solve this mystery, but Alfred Hitchcock himself! An action-filled adventure leads this comedic detective team to discover a lot more than just what happened to Aunt Edith.

Bader, Bonnie. *Golden Quest*.

Silver Moon Press, 1993. Gr. 2-4

Eleven-year-old David, his sister Celia, and their African American friend, Georgie, are caught up in the debate over whether or not California will join the United States as a free state. Historical fiction set in the 1850's, this title includes the Compromise of 1850 and the California Gold Rush.

Balmes, Kathy. *Thunder on the Sierra*.

Silver Moon Press, 2001. Gr. 4-7

When recently orphaned Mateo loses his beloved palomino to the notorious bandit Joaquin Murieta, he has only one thought – he must get her back. But in Gold Rush era California, that is no easy task. Swearing to track down his horse, Mateo becomes an *arriero* – leading pack mules through gold rush camps, lightning storms in the Sierra, and risky encounters with crazed miners. But when he learns that his father's old rancho may be in danger from Yankee squatters who are aided by the new American government, Mateo begins to realize that more is at stake than the fate of his horse. An exciting, well researched, fictional account of a California boy in the 1850s that includes the devastating Foreign Miner's Tax and the Land Act of 1851.

Banim, Lisa. *American Dreams*.

Silver Moon Press, 1993. Gr. 2-4

Developments in World War II force Amy Mochida and her family to move from Hollywood to an internment camp with other Japanese Americans, changing Amy's friendship with eleven-year-old Jeannie.

Bledsoe, Lucy Jane. *Tracks in the Snow*.

Holiday House, 1997. Gr. 4-6

Ten-year-old Erin uses a project on animal tracks as an excuse to head into the Sierra Mountains to search for her missing teenage babysitter, Amy. The search turns into a struggle for survival as Erin and her science partner, Tiffany, are caught in a spring blizzard.

Bierhorst, John. *The People with Five Fingers*.

Marshall Cavendish, 2000. Gr. K-5

Coyote and Lizard and the other animals talk, dream, and create a world filled with mountains, valleys, rivers, salt, and berries so that people from different races and languages may live, work, and dream. The people are all different, but they are the same, too, with hands Lizard imprinted, "that have five fingers like yours and mine." Robert Andrew Parker's imaginative illustrations end with Coyote looking toward the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco.

Block, Francesca Lia. *Cherokee Bat and the Goat Guys*.

HarperCollins, 1992. Gr. YA

Cherokee Bat forms a slinkster cool band that whirls its members into the pain and dangers of love and growing up among the canyons and nightclubs of Los Angeles. Block's inventive use of language and vibrant mix of characters will be familiar to readers of her two previous novels.

Block, Francesca Lia. *Girl Goddess #9*.

HarperCollins, 1996. Gr. YA

There is a goddess in every girl, says Block, and in these stories each struggles to seek love, solace, and family in a painful world. Funny, poignant, and heartbreaking, these are moving portraits of young women who are unmistakably Californians.

Block, Francesca Lia. *The Hanged Man*.

HarperCollins, 1994. Gr. YA

Laurel, tormented by memories of her now-dead father's incest and her present fear of a slashing rapist, tells her story of survival and possible rejuvenation in a wild and tumultuous contemporary Los Angeles. Told in first-person poetic prose, this novel will appeal to many Block fans, but is definitely for the mature reader.

Block, Francesca Lia. *I Was a Teenage Fairy*.

HarperCollins, 1998. Gr. YA

Named after the doll, 11-year-old Barbie is forced into a modeling career by her overbearing stage mother. After an incident of molestation by a well-respected photographer, and the loss of an absent father combined with the further neglect by her mother, Barbie looks to a feisty, sexy fairy for support. An intoxicating modern-day fairy tale about sexual abuse, homosexuality, drug abuse, and suicide; the poetic and haunting use of words conceals much of the ugliness inside.

Block, Francesca Lia. *Violet and Claire*.

Joanna Cotler, 1999. Gr. YA

Two self-absorbed teenage girls, Violet, the dark-haired, aspiring screenwriter with a cynical perspective and a privileged lifestyle, and Claire, the blonde "Tinker Bell," poetry writing, naïve waif, are as different as night and day. As they follow their dream of developing their movie, all the stereotypical sinister elements of southern California counter culture – cutting, rape, eating disorders, drugs, sex, murder, and more – threaten their survival.

Block, Francesca Lia. *Weetzie Bat*.

HarperCollins, 1989. Gr. YA

Block's tale of growing up and finding love and family in Los Angeles is part fairy tale, part Hollywood, and pure Weetzie Bat. This quirky love story is filled with the sights and sounds and people of the Venice area and could happen only in California.

Block, Francesca Lia. *Witch Baby*.

HarperCollins, 1991. Gr. YA

In a sequel to *Weetzie Bat*, Block focuses on Witch Baby, Weetzie Bat's daughter, who, like her mother in the previous book, is searching for herself and family. Once again, Block presents an unforgettable depiction of the "hot and cool, glam and slam, rich and trashy, devils and angels" place that is Los Angeles.

Boyd, Candy Dawson. *Chevrolet Saturdays*.

Macmillan, 1993. Gr. 5-7

Joe Davis doesn't want to like his step-father or his new school. He especially doesn't want to spend Saturdays working with his stepfather on houses and riding in his 1953 Chevrolet truck.

He wants his real family back again. Boyd creates a believable family struggling to come together while searching the Bay Area for a beloved pet.

Boyd, Candy Dawson. *A Different Beat*.

Puffin, 1996. Gr. 5-8

Being accepted at the Oakland Performing Arts Middle School is a dream come true for Jessie, but it also means confronting challenges from her father and classmates to prove she can succeed academically and personally, as well as artistically.

Bunting, Eve. *Coffin on a Case*.

HarperCollins, 1992. Gr. 3-6

Seventh-grader Henry Coffin solves two crimes at once when he helps sixteen-year-old Lily Lawson track down her missing mother in Los Angeles. 1993 Edgar Allen Poe Juvenile Award.

Bunting, Eve. *A Day's Work*. Illus. by Ronald Himler.

Harcourt Brace, 1994. Gr. 1-4

Francisco, a Mexican-American boy, lies to help his abuelo (grandfather) find work with a gardener. Unknowingly, Francisco and Abuelo pull out all the good plants while leaving the weeds. Although angry at Francisco, Abuelo teaches his grandson important lessons about truth and responsibility. Himler creates evocative and realistic watercolor and gouache illustrations.

Bunting, Eve. *Going Home*. Illus. by David Diaz.

HarperCollins, 1996. Gr. K-3

To Mama and Papa, Mexico is home even though they now live in California. During Christmas vacation, the family visits Mexico. Lovingly portrayed in David Diaz's beautiful illustrations.

Bunting, Eve. *The Hideout*.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. Gr. 4-7

When Andy runs away from home, he finds an incredible hiding place - the luxurious penthouse suite at an elegant hotel. Downtown San Francisco is the background for this well-paced thriller.

Bunting, Eve. *Jumping the Nail*.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. Gr. YA

No one in La Paloma has "jumped the Nail", the ninety-foot drop from the cliffs to the ocean since a terrible accident ten years ago. Set in a coastal California community, this story explores the issues of peer pressure and risk-taking among teenagers.

Bunting, Eve. *Smoky Night*. Illus. by David Diaz.

Harcourt Brace, 1994. Gr. K-4

David Diaz's riveting illustrations - expressionistic, boldly-drawn urban scenes framed by photos of collages of three dimensional objects related to these scenes - lead the reader through Eve Bunting's story of a child's-eye view of the 1992 Los Angeles riots. Although Bunting's story may simplify the meaning of the riots, the 1994 Caldecott winner enlightens and engages young children. 1995 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1995 Caldecott Medal.

Bunting, Eve. *So Far From the Sea*.

Houghton Mifflin, 1998. Gr. 1-6

A contemporary Japanese-American girl and her family visit the site of the Manzanar Relocation Camp. There, back in 1942, her father was interned and her grandfather died. This difficult chapter in American history is explored without placing blame or railing against past injustices. Evocative illustrations equal the emotional impact of the text. Readers of all ages are left to question, reflect, and never forget.

Bunting, Eve. *A Sudden Silence*.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1988. Gr. YA

The Pacific Coast Highway forms the backdrop for this story as Jesse Harmon struggles with his guilt and questions after his deaf brother, Bry, is killed by a hit-and-run driver.

Bunting, Eve. *Summer Wheels*.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. Gr. 3-5

The "Bicycle Man" allows the children of his Los Angeles neighborhood to borrow the old bicycles he cleans and repairs as long as they follow the rules. When a new boy tries to buck the system, the children seek justice.

Buzbee, Lewis. *Steinbeck's Ghost*. (2009 Beatty Award)

Feiwel and Friends, 2008. Gr. 7-12

Travis and his parents have moved out of downtown Salinas to a new house in a development, and he feels out of place. Whenever he has the chance, Travis sneaks back to his old neighborhood which includes Salinas' John Steinbeck Library. During his visits he becomes involved in the campaign to save the library and embroiled in a mystery related to John Steinbeck. Buzbee's intriguing tale creatively combines literary, historical and modern California.

Cadnum, Michael. *Blood Gold*.

Viking, 2004. Gr. YA

Join 18-year-old William on every muddy step through the Isthmus of Panama, every swallow of weevil-infested bread on the ocean voyage to San Francisco, every jolt of the wagon as he journeys to the gold fields of California — not to strike it rich, but to track down the man who wronged his friend, Elizabeth. The tedium, danger, and lure of the gold rush experience are authentically drawn, as is the amazing array of characters who William encounters along the way. Gritty and realistic, William's understated voice strikes a perfect balance.

Cadnum, Michael. *Breaking the Fall*.

Viking, 1992. Gr. YA

Jared's game is invisibility, breaking into Oakland homes while there are people inside. Stanley looks towards a loving relationship with Sky to help him stop playing Jared's dangerous game.

Cadnum, Michael. *Edge*.

Viking, 1997. Gr. YA

When Zachary's father is shot by an unknown assailant, Zachary explores various neighborhoods in San Francisco and the East Bay looking for revenge.

Cadnum, Michael. *Rundown*.

Viking, 1999. Gr. YA

Sixteen-year-old Cassandra pretends she's been raped while out jogging near her Berkeley home, exactly one month before her sister's much anticipated wedding.

Cadnum, Michael. *Taking It*.

Viking, 1995. Gr. YA

Anna Charles lives with her mother in North Berkeley, but she does her shoplifting in San Francisco.

Cameron, Eleanor. *The Private Worlds of Julia Redfern*.

Dutton, 1988. Gr. 5-8

In this fifth and final novel about would-be-writer Julia Redfern, Julia is fifteen and still living in Berkeley. This fine series is set in the 1920s and is based loosely on Eleanor Cameron's own youth in the San Francisco Bay Area. [OP]

Carkeet, David. *Quiver River*.

HarperCollins, 1991. Gr. YA

In the sequel to *The Silent Treatment*, Ricky and Nate are in charge of writing the clues for this year's treasure hunt and are spending their summer working at a campground lake resort in the Sierras. Ricky is on the trail of other secrets, too, as he discovers mysterious signs of a Miwok hunter.

Carkeet, David. *The Silent Treatment*.

Harper, 1988. Gr. YA

Two friends search for hidden treasure through clues published in the weekly newspaper of a small gold country town. Equal parts of humor and mystery flavor this first book in a series.

Carlson, Lori Marie. *Barrio Streets, Carnival Dreams*.

Henry Holt, 1996. Gr. 7-12

Poems and essays by more than twenty-five Latino authors and artists, ranging from Pura Belpre to Rosie Perez, are collected here in celebration of the culture of Spanish-speaking Americans.

Castellucci, Cecil. *Boy Proof*.

Candlewick Press, 2005. Gr. 6-12

Sixteen-year-old Victoria calls herself Egg after a sci-fi heroine she emulates. She prefers to be alone until a new boy comes to school and she begins to wish she knew how to be more friendly to people. A likeable heroine with a strong sense of Los Angeles and the film industry. 2006 ALA Best Book for Young Adults. [IP, 2006]

Chaltas, Thalia. *Displacement*.

Viking, 2011. Gr. 6-12

17-year-old Vera's younger sister died recently and her older sister, who took over for their absent mother, seems distant, so she runs away from home, ending up in a small California desert town near Death Valley where no one asks too many questions. She gets a part-time job,

spending her free time exploring and rock-hunting to try to escape her grief and pain. Told in first person free verse, this is a story of grief, guilt, denial, anger and, finally, redemption. [OP]

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. (2005 Beatty Award)  
Putnam Juvenile, 2004. Gr. 5-8

In 1934, twelve-year-old Moose Flanagan lives on Alcatraz Island with his father, an electrician, his mother, and his autistic sister Natalie. Unhappy that he moved from his friends and baseball team, he makes new friends and with the warden's daughter, a junior master mind of trouble. 2005 ALA Notable Book for Children; 2005 ALA Best Book for Young Adults; 2005 Newbery Honor; 2004 Sid Fleischman Humor Award.

Chow, Cara. *Bitter Melon*.  
Egmont USA, 2011. Gr. 6-12

Frances, a San Francisco Chinese-American girl, is accidentally enrolled in a high-school speech class instead of calculus and is horrified. But she is soon captivated by the teacher and discovers she has a talent for writing and giving speeches. For the first time in her life she lies to and defies her traditional Chinese mother. Thus begins the year that Frances' horizons expand and her life changes forever. 2012 Best Fiction for Young Adults.

Climo, Shirley. *T.J.'s Ghost*.  
Crowell, 1989. Gr. 4-6

While visiting her great aunt and uncle on the California coast, T.J. meets a mysterious boy who seems to appear whenever the Pigeon Point foghorn sounds - but the foghorn hasn't worked for years and nobody else seems to hear it. This ghost story is based on accounts of an actual shipwreck near Santa Cruz in 1866.

Coats, Laura Jane. *The Almond Orchard*.  
Macmillan, 1991. Gr. 1-4

In the first part of this short illustrated story, a little girl recounts the activities that shape each season in her father's almond orchard. Many years later, when she owns the orchard, the almonds are harvested in a very different way. The California Central Valley setting is mentioned only on the dust jacket, but the short text and informative, softly colored pictures on each page help the reader follow the orchard's changing cycles and times. [OP]

Cochrane, Patricia A. *Purely Rosie Pearl*.  
Delacorte, 1996. Gr. 4-7

Rosie Pearl and her family are migrant laborers in California during the Great Depression. Their reputation ensures them work in the fields but Rosie Pearl exerts herself - physically and mentally - to help achieve her family's goal of becoming more than field workers.

Coerr, Eleanor. *Chang's Paper Pony*. (1989 Beatty Award)  
Harper & Row, 1988. Gr. 1-3

In an accurate easy-to-read story with child appeal, Eleanor Coerr recreates the experiences of a young Chinese boy who works in a California mining camp with his grandfather during the Gold Rush. A concluding note provides historical perspective to Chang's story.



Cohn, Rachel. *Shrimp*.

Simon & Schuster, 2005. Gr. 9-12

Cyd Charisse has returned to San Francisco and her true love, Shrimp. Senior year forces her to re-examine her feelings and relationships with family and friends and face the consequences of past actions as she is pummeled into making decisions about her life after high school. The aura of San Francisco permeates almost every page and contrasts delightfully with a New York City interlude. Sequel to *Gingerbread*. [IP, 2006]

Colato-Lainez, Rene. *From North to South: Del Norte al Sur*. Illus. by Joe Cepeda.

Children's Book Press, 2010. Gr. K-3.

In this bilingual picture book, Jose lives in San Diego with his parents. His mother is deported to Tijuana and lives at the Centro Madre Assunta, a temporary home for mothers and children waiting to be reunited with their families in the U.S., a situation many California children can relate to. Cepeda's colorful illustrations and the map on the endpapers add to the presentation.

Cole, Sheila. *The Canyon*.

HarperCollins, 2002. Gr. 4-8

Young Zachary Barnes is shocked and dismayed to learn that the San Ramon canyon he and his neighbors enjoy is scheduled to be turned into a luxury housing development. Cole portrays a fine example of the suburban-housing boom that is occurring in California, and the toll this is taking on the state's natural resources. Readers will relate to Zachary's efforts to save the canyon he loves, and will cheer him on in his efforts.

Conkling, Winifred. *Sylvia & Aki*.

Tricycle Press, 2011. Gr. 4-6

A wonderfully told story of a time in California history that many students may not be aware happened. By weaving the historical events into the stories of two young school girls, Conkling brings an awareness of the plight of immigrants and the Japanese internment to the forefront of her story. The intertwining of these two cultures with the girls as friends brings an even better understanding of the courage of immigrants and the Japanese during these times. 2012 Jane Addams Children's Book Award; 2012 Tomas Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award.

Cottonwood, Joe. *The Adventures of Boone Barnaby*.

Scholastic, 1990. Gr. 6-8

Boone Barnaby and his two best friends learn about the adult version of truth and justice through their adventures in a small California town in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Cottonwood, Joe. *Babcock*.

Scholastic, 1996. Gr. 6-8

Can a chubby, briefcase-toting, bug-oriented African-American teenager befriends a skinny, freckled, running-oriented white girl whose mother is very against the whole idea? Sequel to *Danny Ain't* and *The Adventures of Boone Barnaby*.

Cottonwood, Joe. *Danny Ain't*.

Scholastic, 1992. Gr. 5-7

This rambling slice-of-life novel tells the story of Danny who opts to live on his own in the small community of San Puerco when his father needs to be hospitalized. Sequel to *The Adventures of Boone Barnaby*.

Cottonwood, Joe. *Quake! A Novel*.

Scholastic, 1995. Gr. 5-8

Franny was upset at being left in charge of her brother and friend while her parents were at the World Series game in San Francisco's Candlestick Park. But when an extremely strong earthquake hits her Santa Cruz mountain home, her world is literally turned upside down. During this emergency, she discovers the strength to lead and help others to safety.

Coville, Joe. *Fortune's Journey*.

Bridgewater Books, 1995. Gr. 4-6

Traveling on the Oregon Trail to California, Fortune survives disaster after disaster while she acts as the peacemaker for an acting troupe. A fun read with a little history thrown in.

Currier, Katrina Saltonstall. *Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain: An Angel Island Story*. Illus. by Gabhor Utomo.

Angel Island Association, 2005. Gr. 3-5

"Goodbye China---Here I come, Gold Mountain," are the words of twelve-year-old Kai in 1934 as he sails from China to join his father in America. After a long, hard sea voyage, Kai's journey is not over. He must endure weeks of living and waiting in crowded conditions on Angel Island not knowing if he will ever be reunited with his father. Enduring harsh examinations while fearing that he may be sent back to China, Kai befriends another boy who is also waiting to come to America. The detailed illustrations help to portray the experiences of immigrants as they entered the United States from the East. [IP, 2006]

Cushman, Karen. *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple*. (1997 Beatty Award)

Clarion Books, 1996. Gr. 4-8

The only pioneering spirit in "California Morning Whipple" is in her name, which she changes to Lucy after her widowed mother forcibly relocates the family from their green, orderly, tasteful Massachusetts home to the muddy (or dusty) mining camp of Lucky Diggins, California. Lucy, an avid book lover, detests the lack of civility and suffers the hardships of her new surroundings, but unconsciously evolves into a Californian, finding gold in the people and natural beauty of the Northern California wilderness.

Cushman, Karen. *Rodzina*.

Clarion, 2003. Gr. 5-8

Newbery-Award winner Karen Cushman dishes up her latest spunky heroine in twelve-year-old Rodzina, a Polish immigrant who finds herself on an unforgettable journey to California aboard an orphan train in 1881. Big and tall, Rodzina is smart and dependable and a right hand for the very proper Miss Doctor. In *Rodzina* readers are treated to a heroine with whom they can laugh and cry, as they absorb a chapter in American history in which children grew up fast, and courage and resilience were necessities.

De la Peña, Matt. *I Will Save You*.

Delacorte, 2010. Gr. YA

Kidd Ellison has found a kind of peace-- a friendship with Mr. Red, who's given him a summer job at the beach, and a potential romance with Olivia, the rich, blonde-haired blue-eyed beauty. But just as Olivia hides her port wine stain under her hair and hat, Kidd is hiding his history. Where did he come from? Where has he been? When the destructive Devon appears, Kidd must reconcile his present and his past in this psychological novel with a twist of an ending. Set in the beach culture of Southern California and San Diego, this engaging read is attractive to voracious and reluctant readers alike.

De la Peña, Matt. *Mexican WhiteBoy*.

Random House, 2008. Gr. 9-12

Caught between the two worlds of his dual heritage, 16-year-old Danny Lopez doesn't fit in at his private high school in wealthy northern San Diego County where his Caucasian mother lives. Nor does he feel comfortable being "almost Albino" with his father's Mexican family - he doesn't even speak Spanish. Consequently, Danny withdraws from both worlds, rarely speaking to anyone. For the summer, however, Danny decides to stay with his father's family in National City where he meets Uno, another interracial teen who loves baseball almost as much Danny does. As Danny forms a lasting friendship with Uno and falls in love with Liberty, a recent immigrant, Danny begins to come to terms with his identity and life. Filled with authentic characters, empathetic dialogue and an exhilarating homage to baseball, *Mexican WhiteBoy* is sure to engage readers with de la Peña's exceptional storytelling. National City, as the primary setting, is clearly delineated - readers will feel that they have been there.

Denenberg, Barry. *The Journal of Ben Uchida, Citizen 13559, Mirror Lake. Internment Camp*

Scholastic, 1999. Gr. 4-6

This "My Name is America" title documents the life of Ben Uchida and his family in a fictional World War 2 northern California internment camp. Photographs from actual internment camps and an afterward of historical fact are included. The casual reader may have trouble distinguishing historic fact from fiction, but Ben's feelings about his family's predicament ring true.

Doctorow, Cory. *Little Brother*.

TOR, 2008. Gr. 7-12

Marcus and his friends are in the wrong place at the wrong time. When they skip school for an online game, terrorists blow up the San Francisco Bay Bridge and they end up being at ground zero. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) detains them in an undisclosed location, interrogating them for days. Except for Marcus' best friend Darryl, they are finally released under the condition that they not disclose what happened. In the meantime, DHS has put the city on lockdown, monitoring people's movements electronically through debit transactions and fast passes and questioning those whose patterns are not "normal." Marcus, determined to rescue Darryl and take down DHS, starts an underground internet movement to fight the repression.

Duey, Kathleen. *Alexia Ellery Finsdale: San Francisco, 1906*.

Simon & Schuster, 1997. Gr. 4-6

Alexia lives with her father in San Francisco just before the great earthquake. It is a difficult, dangerous time, and her father has not made her life any easier by gambling away their rent money and losing job after job. Alexia feels at home in Mrs. Tanner's boarding house, and she wants to stay there. Duey presents an exciting story filled with believable historical details. This is part of the *American Diaries* series, which are stories of different girls living in different periods of U.S. history.

Duey, Kathleen. *Survival! Death Valley*.

Aladdin, 1998. Gr. 5-8

Uprooted from their home, the Brantcourt family begins the trek across half a continent to California in hopes of striking it rich in the gold rush. Taking a short cut that will supposedly lead them to California faster, the family enters the unrelentingly hot desert of Death Valley alone. First Pa gets injured and then the wagon breaks an axle. This leaves twins, Jessamine and Will, to set off on their own across the endless sand and heat, to find help for their stranded family.

Duey, Kathleen. *Survival! Earthquake*.

Aladdin, 1998. Gr. 5-8

Brendan O'Connor is a self-reliant orphan who works as a delivery boy to the finer hotels and businesses of the financial district in San Francisco. Li Dai Yue is a Chinese immigrant running away from her family and an arranged marriage in Chinatown. These two strangers will need to rely on one another in order to survive the Great San Francisco Earthquake and the ensuing fires, riots, and aftershocks.

Ellis, Ella Thorp. *Year of My Indian Prince*.

Delacorte Press, 2001. Gr. YA

A fictionalized version of the author's experiences in 1945 when, at the age of sixteen, she is admitted to a tuberculosis hospital in San Francisco and finds solace in the gifts and friendship of another patient, a young man from India whose father is a maharajah's son. Excellent details of a disease that used to force many people in California to undergo bed-rest for several years in sanitariums where, despite the best care, one did not always survive. Not much about the locale outside of the sanitarium.

Elmore, Patricia. *Susannah and the Purple Mongoose Mystery*.

Dutton, 1992. Gr. 4-7

Susannah and her sidekick, Lucy, are on the trail of a neighborhood pyromaniac, and their most important clue is a boy riding a purple Mongoose bicycle. Finding him won't be easy in a city as large as Oakland, but find him they must before the entire block goes up in flames. [OP]

Enderle, Judith R. and Tessler, Stephanie G. *Francis the Earthquake Dog*.

Chronicle Books, 1996. Gr. 1-3

When Edward brings a stray dog home to the St. Francis Hotel, where he and his chef father live, the dog creates havoc in the busy kitchen and then disappears. At dawn, the Great Earthquake of

1906 strikes San Francisco and the hotel must be abandoned. Will Edward ever find his little Francis?

Ewing, Lynne. *Drive-By*.

HarperCollins, 1996. Gr. 6-8

Los Angeles gang members have killed his brother and now they are after Tito. Can he protect himself and his family while he tries to find out why his brother was killed?

Fitch, Janet. *Kicks*.

Clarion Books, 1995. Gr. YA

Until Laurie rescues her best friend Carla from a bikers' den where her friend has overdosed, she thinks the LA street life is far better than living her mother's conservative lifestyle. When she truly sees the dangers of this life, she realizes that it isn't what she wants for herself.

Fleischman, Sid. *Bandit's Moon*. (1999 Beatty Award)

Greenwillow Books, 1998. Gr. 3-6

Bad luck follows orphaned Annyrose like an afternoon shadow. Her brother is lost to her -- gone to strike it rich in the California gold rush -- and now she's been snatched by famed Mexican bandit, Joaquin Murieta, who thinks she's a boy and decides she might be useful in his own quest. Can this unlikely duo help each other? Non-stop action and a plot with more twists and turns that a canyon wall add up to a signature novel. 1999 ALA Notable Book for Children.

Fleishman, Sid. *Bo & Mzzz Mad*.

Greenwillow Books, 2001. Gr. 4-7

A fast-paced, suspenseful adventure story set in California's Mojave Desert. Recently orphaned Bo Gammage, age 12, visits distant relatives on his mother's side, the two sides of the family having feuded for more than a generation over a mysterious gold mine. Bo encounters his spunky 13-year-old cousin, Madeleine, who calls herself Mzzz Mad, her aging cowboy-actor grandpa, and peace-keeping Aunt Juna. Rousing plot twists involving small time criminals, a deadly rattlesnake, and a fake treasure map, as well as larger-than-life characters, gives this contemporary western tale broad reader appeal.

Fleischman, Sid. *Disappearing Act*.

Greenwillow, 2003. Gr. 5-8

When their archaeologist mother mysteriously disappears while in Mexico, 12-year-old Kevin and his older sister Holly fear they are being stalked. The two run off to Venice, California where they change their names and make a living as street performers. But have they successfully eluded their stalker, the Toad? This suspenseful, oftentimes humorous, tale evokes the Venice street scene lifestyle while keeping young readers guessing as to what comes next as the suspense builds.

Fleischman, Sid. *Jim Ugly*.

Greenwillow, 1992. Gr. 4-8

Unconvinced that a coffin really contains his father's body, twelve-year-old Jake leaves Blowfly, Nevada, in 1894 searching for answers. Accompanied by his father's dog, Jim Ugly, Jake finds himself in a fast-paced adventure that winds up in San Francisco. Filled with humorous

situations, the story draws readers into the drama through its convincing setting, characters, and dialogue. 1993 ALA Notable Book for Children.

Fleischman, Sid. *The Giant Rat of Sumatra: or Pirates Galore*. Illus. by John Hendrix. Greenwillow Books, 2005. Gr. 4-6

A twelve-year-old cabin boy named Shipwreck quickly discovers that his adventures are just beginning once he arrives in San Diego in 1846. Accompanied by the dashing yet witty Captain Gallows, Shipwreck finds himself in some comical situations involving pirates, bandits, hidden treasure, and the search for Gallows' lost love. The historical backdrop of the Mexican-American war provides an intriguing glimpse of the last days of California under Mexican rule. A cast of colorful characters rounds out this fast-paced book filled with humor and adventure. [IP, 2006]

Fletcher, Susan. *Walk Across the Sea*. Atheneum, 2001. Gr. 4-8

The anti-Chinese prejudices expressed during the 1880s in Crescent City, a small coastal town north of San Francisco, are developed in this story of Eliza's friendship with Wah Chung. Eliza questions her father's role in the expulsion of Crescent City's Chinese community and hides Wah Chung next to their lighthouse. Religious and medical attitudes, and the trade of lighthouse keeping, are portrayed in this story, which is based upon true events.

Gardner, Theodore Roosevelt. *Something Nice to See*. Illus. by Peter Hamlin. Allen A. Knoll, 1994. Gr. P-3

Barry is rejected by his classmates because he is different; he can read. His neighbor, Italian immigrant Sam Rodia, the builder of the Watts Towers, comforts him and explains how they are similar in their both being different. Told in verse.

Garland, Sherry. *Valley of the Moon: The Diary of María Rosalia de Milagros*. Scholastic, 2001. Gr. 4-8

The fictional diary of thirteen-year old Maria, servant to a wealthy Spanish family that took her in when her Indian mother died, does a good job explaining the aspects of life in Alta California, particularly in the Sonoma Valley during 1846-1850. Includes ranchos and rancheros, the Californios, the wealthy Spanish and the laboring Indians, cholera, the incoming Americanos, questions of loyalty, the Mexican-American war; the Gold Rush and its consequences. Includes a historical note about the settlement and early history of California.

Goldin, Barbara. *Diamond Red Means Good Fortune: A Story of San Francisco's Chinatown*. Viking, 1994. Gr. 2-5

In San Francisco in 1868, twelve-year-old Jin Mun attempts to rescue his neighbor, a young Chinese girl who is imprisoned in her master's house.

Grabien, Deborah. *Dark's Tale*. Egmont, 2010. Gr. 5-9

Dark, a housecat, is forced to fend for herself after her humans abandon her in Golden Gate Park. Although first wary of humans after —the Dumping, Dark begins to change her mind when she encounters friendly Jack and Angie, who feed the strays, and some of the Park's permanent

(homeless) residents. When coyotes appear, both humans and animals are alarmed and must pull together to adapt to the new threat. Despite being occasionally didactic, *Dark's Tale* has an engaging plot with a sympathetic protagonist. Grabien, who has real life experience with animal rescue, touches on animal-rights themes. The descriptions of the park and wildlife are evocative, and the deft blending of realism with fantasy make this a natural fit for fans of Erin Hunter's *Warriors* books.

Grant, Cynthia D. *Shadow Man*.  
Atheneum, 1992. YA

The town of Willow Creek near Mendocino is deeply affected by the loss of Gabe, a teenage alcoholic who wraps his truck around a tree. Everyone, including his girlfriend, wonders how they could have saved him.

Gregory, Kristiana. *Earthquake at Dawn*.  
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. Gr. 5-8

This novel about the 1906 San Francisco earthquake focuses on the experiences of an actual witness, twenty-two year-old photographer Edith Irvine. Although plot and characterization are marred by melodramatic excess, Gregory's careful research fills this novel with fascinating details of the earthquake and its aftermath.

Gregory, Kristiana. *Orphan Runaways*.  
Scholastic Press, 1998. Gr. 5-8

Instead of being separated by adoption, 12-year-old Danny and his younger brother, Judd, decide to run away from a San Francisco orphanage and search for their missing uncle, a miner. Finding him in Bodie, a gold rush boomtown with his Chinese bride, the two boys must first come to terms with what truly makes a family. A colorful cast of supporting characters highlights this historically accurate tale of family and racial intolerance.

Gregory, Kristiana. *Seeds of Hope: The Gold Rush Diary of Susanna Fairchild, California Territory, 1849*.  
Scholastic, 2001. Gr. 4-8

The narrative shines when depicting the daily lives of two sisters - their struggle to afford food, make a home and learn to be women without any female influence. They endure many privations as a friend of the father, who is deep into the gold fields, absconds with his gold. Woven throughout the story is the girls' friendship with a Mexican girl and her hardworking, persecuted family. A riveting and triumphal story of two gutsy young women.

Gregory, Kristiana. *Stowaway: A Tale of California Pirates*.  
Apple, 1995. Gr. 4-6

When pirates attack his home in the Monterey Bay settlement, Carlito sees his father killed and tries to get back at the pirates. This backfires and Carlito is captured. He makes friends with other captives but has great difficulty dealing with the horrid conditions under which he lives. Based on a true event in 1818, this book details life during a difficult period in California history, but Carlito fails to become three-dimensional.

Gutman, Dan. *The Day Roy Riegels Ran the Wrong Way*.  
Bloomsbury, 2011. Gr. P-3

A grandfather tells his young grandson the story of Roy Riegels and his college football team, the U.C. Berkeley Bears. During the Rose Bowl game at the beginning of 1929, Roy got possession of the ball in a fumble and then ran the wrong way down the field. Unable to stop him for many yards, the team was aghast, but Roy learned a good lesson.

Harris, Mark Jonathan. *Come the Morning*.  
Bradbury, 1989. Gr. 5-7

Thirteen-year-old Ben Gibson, his mother, and two younger siblings join the ranks of the homeless in downtown Los Angeles.[OP]

Harvey, Brett. *Cassie's Journey: Going West in the 1860s*. Illus. by Kogan Ray.  
Holiday House, 1988. Gr. 2-5

A young girl talks about the hardships of traveling with her family in a covered wagon from Illinois to California during the 1860s. Deborah Kogan Ray's illustrations draw one in.

Haugaard, Kay. *No Place*.  
Milkweed, 1999. Gr. 4-6

Arturo and his sixth-grade classmates begin a project to turn a junk-filled lot into a park in their inner-city neighborhood without hope of success, but find that their dreams can become reality.

Herrera, Juan Felipe. *CrashBoomLove: a Novel In Verse*.  
University of New Mexico, 1999. Gr. YA

Struggling to come to terms with being abandoned by his migrant father for a new family in Denver, 16-year old Cesar Garcia is struggling to survive at Rambling West High School in Fowlerville, California. Cesar finds himself in the wrong place at the wrong time as the Hmongs, the Chicanos, and the African-Americans are choosing up sides.

Himmelblau, Linda. *The Trouble Begins*.  
Delacorte Books, 2005. Gr. 4-8

Traveling with his family from Vietnam, and left behind for ten years in the Philippines with his grandmother to recover from tuberculosis, 11-year-old Du and his grandmother have just arrived in California. He doesn't remember his family, and his independence and stubbornness create even more obstacles in his adjustment to a new culture and language. Readers will identify with Du's frustrations at school and at home, especially his tense relationship with his father, and relish his escapades as he grows into the person his grandmother knows him to be. An authentic portrayal of a refugee family struggling to survive in a new country and of a young boy finding his place will resonate with many immigrants. A 2006 ALA Notable Book for Children. [IP, 2006]

Hines, Gary. *Ride in the Crummy*.  
Greenwillow, 1991. Gr. P

Two boys have an exciting ride in the caboose of a big train that is taking them to visit their father in a Northern California logging camp.[OP]



Hobbs, Valerie. *Carolina Crow Girl*.

Frances Foster, 1999. Gr. 5-7

Carolina, baby sister Trinity, and aging flower-child mother Melanie have parked their school bus home in the field overlooking Stefan's house near Santa Barbara. Carolina feels confined by her non-traditional lifestyle until she meets a wealthy boy, Stefan, who is bound by his wheelchair and sad family memories. Each child wants to break free to fly; it is Stefan's crow that shows them the way.

Hobbs, Valerie. *How Far Would You Have Gotten If I Hadn't Called You Back?*

Orchard Books, 1995. Gr. YA

Moving to a small California mountain town where her parents are opening a restaurant opens Bron's eyes to a new way of life, including drag racing and baby showers. 1996 ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

Hobbs, Valerie. *Tender*.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001. Gr. 6-9

Fifteen-year-old Liv leaves New York to live with the father who abandoned her at birth. He is an abalone diver with his own hard shell who works in the coastal communities surrounding Santa Barbara, circa 2000. Liv and her father are sympathetic characters and the story includes an episode in which father and daughter confront dangerous survival conditions at sea.

Holczer, Tracy. *The Secret Hum of a Daisy*.

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2014. Gr. 5-9

Twelve-year-old Grace has found her home in Hood, California after moving all over the state with her mother. At least, that's what she thought until her mother's sudden death sends her packing to a grandmother she's never met. A cast of quirky characters helps Grace through her grief. It is through them (and a treasure hunt) that she finds forgiveness, acceptance, and finally, a home.

Holman, Felice. *Real*.

Atheneum, 1997. Gr. 5-8

In 1932, after his mother's death, Cally and his father, a Hollywood stuntman, move to the desert. Here Cally encounters Sparrow, a Cahuilla Indian boy, and his grandmother, whose spirits cannot rest until the location of their murder in 1774 is found and a traditional burial ceremony performed. Readers follow the parallel stories of the two boys in this novel that also offers a contrast between the stereotypical image of the old West in movies of the 1930s and the real West of history.

Honeyman, Kay. *Fire Horse Girl*.

Arthur Levine, Scholastic, 2013. Gr. 7-Adult

Historical fiction that accurately integrates the treatment of Chinese women in the early part of the 20th Century into the immigration practices on Angel Island. Jade Moon, the heroine, is born in the year of the Fire Horse, a bad sign for Chinese girls at that time. She behaves like a Fire Horse, bold and stubborn. Determined to leave Angel Island, she hides in plain sight as a man. A wonderfully accurate immigration story.

Howe, Norma. *Adventure of Blue Avenger*.

Henry Holt, 1999. Gr. YA

David Bruce Schumacher is inspired on his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday (and after his father's sudden death) to transform himself into a living, breathing version of his cartoon character creation, Blue Avenger. Dressed in his dad's old fishing vest and fashioning a blue terrycloth towel into headgear, he determines to do good in the world but only manages to cause hilarious havoc in his own neighborhood of Oakland, California.

Isaacs, Anne. *The Ghosts of Luckless Gulch*.

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008. Gr. 2-5

Set during the California Gold Rush, *The Ghost of Luckless Gulch* tells the story of Estrella, who almost never stops running, and of her unusual pets, the Kickle Snifter, the Sidehill Wowser, and the Rubberado puppy. The capture of Estrella's pets leads her on a typical tall tale trip to Luckless Gulch and its gold-grabbing ghosts. By the end of the story you'll know exactly how California's hills, Redwood trees, and earthquakes were created.

Jiménez, Francisco. *Breaking Through*.

Houghton Mifflin, 2001. Gr. YA

Jimenez's magnificent fictionalized autobiography picks up where his first book of memoirs, *The Circuit*, left off – when the two brothers are picked up by the I.N.S. and sent back to Mexico, only to be able to return legally to their family in Santa Maria after several difficult weeks. *Breaking Through* takes Jimenez through the end of his senior year at Santa Maria High. There's the unimaginably hard work the brothers and their mother perform, while the father increasingly suffers from severe physical and mental pain. There's the pain of first dates across ethnic lines, the epiphany about great books connecting with one's own life when Panchito reads *Grapes of Wrath*, and the important role that a school counselor plays in guiding him to think of college. Painfully but heroically, Panchito successfully handles 3 cultures: the Mexican culture of his family and the education that is separating him from his father; the poverty of the farm labor camps; and the experiences of adolescents living in the 1950s along California's Central Coast. 2002 ALA Notable Book for Children; 2002 ALA Best Book for Young Adults; 2002 Notable Social Studies Trade Book; 2002 Pura Belpre Honor Book; 2001 Tomas Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award.

Jimenez, Francisco. *The Christmas Gift/El Regalo de Navidad*. Illus. by Claire Cotts

Houghton Mifflin, 2000. Gr. 1-4

Excerpted from Jimenez's 1998 Beatty Award winning book "The Circuit", this picture book tells the semi-autobiographical story of a migrant farm his family as they have to move a few days before Christmas in order to find work. Panchito's simple desire of a ball for Christmas is even more than the family can afford. A powerful, bilingual story ably illustrated by Claire Cotts of a loving family helping a young couple even worse off than they are. 2001 ALA Notable Books for Children; 2001 Notable Social Studies Trade Book.

Jimenez, Francisco. *La Mariposa*.

Houghton Mifflin Company, 1998. Gr. 1-4

In this picture book retelling of a chapter from "The Circuit," Francisco struggles through his first year at school, understanding little of what the teacher says. As the year progresses, and the

class caterpillar is slowly transformed, so too is Francisco. Also available in Spanish under the same title.

Johnson, Angela. *Toning the Sweep*.

Orchard Books, 1993. Gr. 7-12

On a visit to her grandmother, Ola, who is dying of cancer in her house in the Southern California desert, fourteen-year-old Emmie hears many stories about the past and about her family history that help her come to a better understanding of herself and her family. 1994 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1994 ALA Best Book for Young Adults; 1994 Coretta Scott King Award.

Johnston, Tony. *Any Small Goodness*. (2002 Beatty Award)

Blue Sky Press, 2001. Gr. 4-8

This is a small gem of a novel about Arturo Rodriguez and his family, friends, and school in the barrio in East Los Angeles. As they deal with a teacher who wants to Americanize their names, the disappearance of their cat, the mysterious school librarian, Ms. Cloud, as well as a retired NBA star who teaches them basketball for one dollar a year, and a drive-by shooting, they learn to see life in Papi's terms – that “any small goodness” is worth doing. A thoughtful, often funny, and transcendent book!

Johnston, Tony. *Levi Strauss Gets a Bright Idea: A Fairly Fabricated Story of a Pair of Pants*. Illus. by Stacy Innerst.

Harcourt Children's Books, 2011. Grades K-3

Hilarious tall-tale of how Levi Strauss joined the rush to California's goldfields and made his fortune inventing and producing blue jeans instead. Whimsical illustrations of barrel-clad miners painted in acrylic on blue jean fabric help along the rollicking, tongue-in-cheek story.

Johnston, Tony. *Uncle Rain Cloud*. Illus. by Fabricio Vanden Broeck

Charlesbridge, 2001. Gr. 1-4

Carlos calls his grouchy uncle, “Uncle Rain Cloud.” Why does he get so grouchy on shopping day? When he learns that his uncle is afraid to speak English in their new home in Los Angeles, the two begin to teach one another, Carlos the English words of “el blahblah,” and Uncle the Spanish names of the tongue-twister Aztec gods.

Jukes, Mavis. *Smoke*.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. Gr. 4 – 6

Colton's mom makes him move from Idaho Falls to northern California, with his only friend for consolation: Smoke, the twenty-pound black Maine coon cat that Colt's dad gave him when he was little. With his dad gone most of the year riding bulls on the rodeo circuit, sometimes it feels like Smoke is their only connection. So when Smoke doesn't come home after Colt lets him out in the middle of the night, nothing else in Colt's world seems to matter anymore. But on the dark and stormy evening when Colt sets off alone to find his missing cat, he's in for more danger than even the son of a fearless bull rider could have dreamed of.

Kalman, Maira. *Max in Hollywood, Baby*.  
Penguin, 1992.

Glitz and glamour and shallow people greet Max the famous dog who goes to Hollywood to write and direct a film. Will his script lay a big oeuf?

Katz, Welwyn. *Wilton Whale Singer*.  
McElderry, 1991. Gr. 6-8

Katz mixes coming-of-age issues with anthropomorphic mysticism, a search for Sir Francis Drake's treasure, and academic espionage in a novel that stretches the reader's credulity yet provides involving reading in a strongly depicted Point Reyes setting. [OP]

Kay, Verla. *Covered Wagons, Bumpy Trails*.  
Putnam, 2000. Gr. K-4

The rhyming text describes a family's journey along the California Trail. Double-page spreads offer panoramic views of the diverse terrain traveled, while details in the paintings show California quail and golden poppies. A map and brief introduction highlight significant places between Independence, Missouri and California's Sacramento Valley.

Kay, Verla. *Gold Fever*.  
Putnam, 1999. Gr. K-3

Rhythmic text and charming pencil drawings tell of Jasper's adventure as a 49er and his happy homecoming after he discovers the disillusioning reality of the Gold Rush.

Ketchum, Lisa. *Blue Coyote*.  
Simon & Schuster, 1997. Gr. 4-9

Alex Beekman has left his mother and sister in Vermont and traveled to Los Angeles with his father in order to find his best friend Tito. Even Tito's parents do not know where he is and do not seem interested in knowing. Alex searches for Tito throughout the Los Angeles area, and in finding him, he discovers many important truths about the disappearance, about Tito, and about himself. A companion book to Ketchum's award-winning novel, *Twelve Days in August*.

Kidd, Nina. *June Mountain Secret*.  
HarperCollins, 1991. Gr. K-3

Jen and her dad spend a day fishing for rainbow trout in the McCloud River Preserve, owned and protected by the Nature Conservancy. Beautiful pictures capture the loving interaction of the two, the beauty of the area, and identify some of the flora, fauna, and fishing gear.

Kidd, Ronald. *The Year of the Bomb*.  
Simon & Schuster, 2009. Gr. YA

When Paul and his friends Arnie, Crank, and Oz find out that a horror movie will be filmed in their southern California town, they can't believe it — they even manage to get onto the set and meet some of the extras. But then they learn that some of the actors are really undercover agents, and the four boys find themselves tangled in an investigation.

Kirby, Jessi. *Moonglass*.

Simon & Schuster, 2011. Gr. 6 and up

Anna's father drags her away from her friends, her school and the last place she saw her mother alive by accepting a job transfer to Crystal Cove State Park in Southern California, the very place where he met and fell in love with her mother. As her romance with a local lifeguard grows, mysteries from the past begin to unravel and long buried secrets begin to tear at her relationship with her father. 2011 ABA New Voices Pick.

Klass, David. *California Blue*.

Scholastic, 1994. Gr. YA

When seventeen-year-old John discovers a unique species of butterfly on the property of the local lumber mill, he makes a decision that turns his family and the whole town against him. A well-written, thought-provoking novel.

Knight, Karsten. *Wildefire*.

Simon & Schuster, 2011. Gr. 8-10

Wildefire is an outstanding fantasy of teenagers in the Northern California redwoods. Ashline, a young Polynesian teenager, finds out quite dramatically that she and some of her classmates are demigods. Her sister Eve tracks her down after Ashline escapes across the country to be rid of her sister's dangerous antics. Using the redwoods as a backdrop, the tale unfolds with an interesting storyline involving not only dark fantasy but also the paranormal and a hint of romance.

Koertge, Ron. *The Harmony Arms*.

Little, Brown, 1992. Gr. 6-8

This hilarious story features Gabriel and his dad, who come to Los Angeles and learn about living California-style. An obnoxious puppet, first kisses, and an oddball collection of characters make this novel a wonderful California experience. 1993 ALA Notable Book for Children.

Koertge, Ron. *Mariposa Blues*.

Joy Street/Little, Brown, 1991. Gr. 6-8

Thirteen-year-old Graham finds his relationship with his father changing as he spends his summer at a racetrack in Southern California.

Koertge, Ron. *Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright*.

Orchard Books, 1994. Gr. 6+

Eighth-grader Jesse hotly denies that his rugged grandfather, Pappy, is a candidate for a nursing home. but when Pappy insists he's seen tiger tracks in the California hills even Jesse starts to have doubts about him. Full of quirky characters and snappy dialogue. 1995 ALA Notable Books for Children; 1995 ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

Koss, Amy Goldman. *The Ashwater Experiment*.

Dial, 1999. Gr. YA

Accustomed to a nomadic lifestyle with her unconventional parents, Hillary Siegal is surprised by their decision to stay in Ashwater, California for her entire seventh-grade school year. To cope with the prospect of staying in one place for so long, she invents the "Ashwater

Experiment," in which she pretends that she is the only "real" person on earth and "watchers" are monitoring her action.

Krensky, Stephen. *The Iron Dragon Never Sleeps*.

Delacorte, 1994. Gr. 3-5

When ten-year-old Winnie visits her father in a Sierra mining town in 1867, she meets a Chinese boy and learns about the plight of the Chinese railroad workers. A bit heavy-handed, but full of interesting historical details.

Krensky, Stephen. *Lizzie Newton and the San Francisco Earthquake*. Illus. by Jeremy Tugeau.

Millbrook, 2011. Gr. 1-5

Lizzie is at her grandmother's when the 1906 earthquake hits, but luckily finds her parents at the St. Francis Hotel where her father works. Perfect for a young audience, the book ends with a script for a Readers' Theater version of the story that teachers can use for school assemblies.

Kudlinski, Kathleen. *Earthquake! A Story of Old San Francisco*.

Viking, 1993. Gr. 3-5

After the devastating 1906 earthquake hits San Francisco, twelve-year-old Phillip struggles to save the horses in his family's livery stable.

Kudlinski, Kathleen V. *Shannon: The Schoolmarm Mysteries, San Francisco, 1880*. . Illus. by Bill Farnsworth.

Aladdin Paperbacks, 1997. Gr. 3-5

Life in San Francisco during the 1880s is seen through the eyes of recent Irish immigrant Shannon O'Brien. Not only does Shannon struggle with the prejudice against Irish-Americans, but she also is shocked to learn that her friend Mi Ling is forbidden by law to attend school. Historical notes and primary source photographs in the afterword add detail to this story from the *Girlhood Journeys Collection* series.

Lattimore, Deborah Nourse. *Frida Maria: A Story of the Old Southwest*.

Browndeer/Harcourt, 1994. Gr. 2-4

Frida does not cook, sew, or dance like a "proper senorita," but when her special talent saves the day at the fiesta, she pleases her mother. Colorful and energetic paintings capture the spirit of the story.

Larson, Kirby. *Hattie Ever After*.

Delacorte, 2013. Gr. 7-9

Written as a sequel to *Hattie Big Sky*, it continues the story of Hattie Inez Brooks, as she travels to San Francisco to pursue her dream of being a big-city reporter. Not satisfied with working in a boarding house in Montana, Hattie signs on as seamstress of a vaudeville troupe and travels with them to San Francisco where her first exposure to the world of newspapers is as a char woman in the offices of the Chronicle. Ever determined to reach her goal, she eventually sees her way to reporter, only to learn a few difficult life lessons along the way. She eventually realizes the path her life will take in a satisfying ending in a sequel that can certainly stand alone.

Larson, Rodger. *What I Know Now*.

Holt, 1997. Gr. YA

"It was the summer of 1957 when I turned fourteen and I met a man named Gene Tole... and I fell in love with him, but didn't know it at the time." Dave Ryan's mother has left her husband, taking Dave back to her childhood California ranch home. She hires Gene Tole to build a garden, and Gene and Dave strike up a friendship. After finding out about Gene's homosexuality, Dave begins to discover his own emerging sexuality.

Lee, Milly. *Nim and the War Effort*.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1997. Gr. 2-4

Nim, who lives with her multigenerational family in San Francisco's Chinatown during World War II, is determined to best the school bully by collecting the most newspapers for the school paper drive. Yangsook Choi's glowing earth-toned paintings complement the details of this engaging story based on the author's childhood memories. 1998 ALA Notable Book for Children.

Leland, Dorothy Kapcha. *The Balloon Boy of San Francisco*. (2006 Beatty Award)

Tomato, 2005. Gr. 4-7

Red-haired Ready Gates is a resourceful newspaper boy in gold-rush-era San Francisco. From one job to the next, Ready darts around the city with new schemes to earn money for his hard-working, but cash-strapped, family. Using meticulously researched historical materials and based on a true account of a 14-year old boy's adventure in a runaway hot air balloon, *The Balloon Boy of San Francisco* is a light-hearted yet authentic picture of everyday life in 1850s San Francisco.

Leland, Dorothy Kupcha. *Sallie Fox: The Story of a Pioneer Girl*.

Turtleback, 1995. Gr. 4-6

Based on a true story, Sallie is a twelve-year-old girl who traveled to California in 1858, enduring many hardships on her harrowing journey. Eventually the child arrives at her uncle's ranch near Vacaville where she plants an acorn that becomes the famous "Nut Tree," for which a Vacaville restaurant was named.

Lendroth, Susan. *Calico Dorsey: Mail Dog of the Mining Camps*.

Tricycle Press, 2010. Gr. K-4

Realistic watercolor illustrations entice readers into a heartfelt tale based on the true story of a dog that was trained to carry the mail between the mining towns of Calico and Bismarck in the Mojave Desert in 1885.

Leonard, Laura. *Finding Papa*.

Atheneum, 1991. Gr. 4-6

Abby, Joel, and Damaris take the four-day train trip from Estes, Kansas, to California, where they hope to settle down with their father. This satisfying family adventure gives the reader a good look at turn-of-the-century life in Sacramento and San Francisco. [OP]

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. *Snowshoe Thompson*.

HarperCollins, 1992. Gr. 1-3

This easy reader chronicles the first trip by Norwegian immigrant John Thompson, who became a legend in the gold country when he first used skis to carry mail through the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Levitin, Sonia. *Boom Town*.

Orchard Books, 1998. Gr. 1-4

In this rollicking sequel to *Nine for California*, we find young Amanda and her family settling in town near the gold fields. When Pa takes one of Amanda's gooseberry pies, he comes home with money jingling in his pocket from selling pieces of pie, twenty-five cents a slice. Amanda's Fine Pies is established and other businesses quickly follow. Soon it's a regular boom town, and all because of Amanda's gooseberry pie.

Levitin, Sonia. *Clem's Chances*.

Orchard Books, 2001. Gr. 5+

In this fabulous adventure, we meet fourteen-year-old Clem Fontayne in 1860, as he journeys from Missouri to California, in search of his father, who dreamed of gold but ended up publishing a newspaper in San Francisco for French immigrants. You can feel and almost taste the hard scrabble life, from the time Clem's starving mother and little sister die in Missouri waiting for money and letters that never come, through life with cruel neighbors, friendship with Molly, a girl who deserves better than her mean-spirited family, and a host of colorful characters whom Clem meets on his way west. There are wealthy college boys out for a lark, sadly misused Indians, bushwackers, a black man named Gabriel with an incredible tale to tell, controversy going through Mormon territory, and much more.

Levitin, Sonia. *Nine for California*. Illus. by Cat Bowman Smith.

Orchard Books, 1996. Gr. 2-4

In language as bouncy as a stagecoach ride, young Amanda narrates this rollicking tall tale about traveling from Missouri to California on a stagecoach with her mother and siblings. Amanda relates her mother's ingenious solutions to every emergency they encounter - from stampeding buffalo to bandits. Based on letters and diaries of the period, this is illustrated in an appropriately madcap style by Cat Bowman Smith.

Levy, Marilyn. *Run For Your Life*.

Houghton Mifflin, 1996. Gr. 5-8

Life in an Oakland housing project can be difficult for fourteen-year-old Keisha and her friends, but when the recreation director persuades them to join the new track team, they find they can be winners in many ways. ALA Best Book for Young Adults; 1996/1997 Society of School Librarians International.

Lindquist, Susan Hart. *Summer Soldiers*.

Delacorte, 1999. Gr. 5-8

Joe's father and most of the men in his small sheep-farming community have enlisted and been sent overseas to fight in the first World War, leaving their wives and children to run the ranches. Joe ponders the essence of courage as he and his friends battle neighborhood bullies.



London, Jonathan. *Old Salt, Young Salt*.

Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1996. Gr. 2-4

The young boy may be inexperienced, but his beginner's luck is almost magical on a Bodega Bay fishing trip with his father when he witnesses a breaching whale, lands a Chinook salmon, and gets to steer the boat home.

Lowell, Susan. *I am Lavina Cumming*.

Milkweed Editions, 1993. Gr. 4+

While staying with relatives in Northern California after the death of her mother, ten-year-old Lavina sees the arrival of the automobile and experiences the great San Francisco earthquake.

Luger, Harriett. *Bye, Bye, Bali Kai*.

Browndeer, 1996. Gr. 5-6

Suzie Cook, age eleven, needs money. Her father's unemployment checks have stopped, and her mother doesn't make enough to pay the rent. When Suzie's best friend deserts her and her family becomes homeless, living out of their old car, things seem truly hopeless. This realistic novel paints a clear portrait of how even middle class families can slip into homelessness.

Ly, Many. *Home is East*.

Random House, 2005. Gr. 5-8

Eleven-year-old Cambodian-American Amy must make many changes in her life after her unhappy mother leaves the family. She and her father work through their grief and abandonment while building a new life in San Diego. The feeling of traditional Cambodian ethnicity is strong, even while it contrasts with American and Cambodian-American differences. [IP, 2006]

Lynch, Janet Nichols. *My Beautiful Hippie*.

Holiday House, 2013. Gr. 7-10

One middle-class family's reaction to the summer of love, 1967: the older daughter gives up college to marry a control freak, the older brother fails college to go fight in Viet Nam and the fifteen year old heroine loves the cultural changes and has a crush on a beautiful hippie. The changes of the era are highlighted and the social upheaval of ordinary people is believable.

Madigan, L.K. *Mermaid's Mirror*.

Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Gr. YA

For as long as she can remember, Lena has been obsessed with the sea and learning to surf. After a surfing accident many years earlier, her father has forbidden her to learn to surf, and refuses to even enter the water himself. Despite her father's edict, Lena secretly takes lessons from a friend, discovers her natural talent, and quickly becomes hooked on surfing. Soon, however, she begins to hear a strange voice calling her name, sleepwalk, eventually becomes convinced that the mysterious creature she keeps seeing is a mermaid. When Lena finally makes contact, she uncovers a secret about herself and her family that could change her world forever. Madigan skillfully creates a beautiful coming of age story through a combination of magical realism and an accurate portrayal of California surf culture.

Markel, Michelle. *Gracias, Rosa*.

Concept Books, 1995. Gr. P-3

When Kate is unhappy with her new babysitter, Rosa, who speaks only Spanish, Rosa gives her a Guatemalan doll. Newly arrived in Los Angeles, Rosa learns English and tells Kate about her own little girl. When Rosa leaves to rejoin her daughter, Kate sends a special doll to Juana as a gift. Spanish glossary included.

Martin, Ann M. *Dawn, Diary 3*.

Scholastic, 1999. Gr. 5-8

Dawn, originally introduced in the *Babysitters Club* series, is back in California. She and her friends star in their own *California Diary* series that tackles serious issues along with standard boyfriend/girlfriend teen interests. In this title, Dawn and her friend Sunny are on the outs, but are united in their concern over Sunny's cancer-stricken mother.

Martinez, Victor. *Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida*.

HarperCollins, 1996. Gr. YA

This portrait of a Mexican-American family in California's Central Valley includes problems common in young adult novels - alcoholism, teen pregnancy, gangs, etc., yet Manny, the fourteen-year-old narrator, and his family are so refreshingly unique, real, and human, that their stories transcend the familiar. Serious, moving, and funny, this is an upbeat coming-of-age tale. 1996 National Book Award; 1998 Pura Belpre Award.

Mazer, Harry. *A Boy No More*.

Simon & Schuster, 2004. Gr. 6-10

Mazer continues the story of fifteen-year-old Adam Pelko, who was first introduced in *A Boy At War*. Adam has returned with his mother and sister to Bakersfield in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor, in which his father was killed. Adam soon learns that his best friend, a Japanese American, and his entire family have been relocated to the Manzanar internment camp. Torn between loyalty to his family and to his friends, Adam must face up to the discrimination that led to his friends' imprisonment. As someone who lived through these tumultuous times, Mazer presents here a thoughtful, thought-provoking picture of California during the World War II years.

McClain, Margaret. *Bellboy: A Mule Train Journey*.

New Mexico Publishing, 1990. Gr. 4-6

California history is explored from a fresh angle in this slightly old fashioned but absorbing story about twelve-year-old Jake's job as a bellboy - the lead rider in a mule pack train in the 1870s. On Jake's first trip through the Trinity, Marble, and Salmon Mountains to Arcata and back, the reader comes to know him and his companions and experience the very real dangers. As Jake becomes familiar with the countryside and people along the way, he also hears some memorable stories of California history. Written by a former California school librarian who grew up listening to family stories of these days. [OP]

McNeal, Laura. *Dark Water*.

Knopf, 2010. Gr. YA

The summer of the Fallbrook fires (a fictionalized account of the Agua Prieta fires), Pearl is 15 and trying to understand that the adults in her life aren't as infallible as she once thought. Her parents have divorced, and her father wants his distance as he starts a new life. Her friendship with her cousin Robby is intensified as they discover a secret about his father. She takes refuge in an intense secret romance with the beautiful undocumented laborer Amiel-- a relationship that results in a terrible accident during the fires. Dark, poetic, and haunting, the love story will draw readers in, but Pearl's discovery of her own strength is the shining center of this story. National Book Award Finalist: Young Person's Literature, 2010.

Mochizuki, Ken. *Baseball Saved Us*.

Lee and Low, 1993. Gr. 2-4

"Shorty" is sent to a Japanese internment camp with his family during World War II. The adults realize that the boys need something to do, so with a lot of hard work, they form a baseball league, making a baseball field of hard dirt, and creating uniforms out of mattress covers. Mochizuki shows the camp, which could be any of the internment camps, as the prison it was, while also acknowledging the hope and strong sense of survival that also prevailed.

Mowry, Jess. *Babylon Boyz*.

Simon & Schuster, 1997. Gr. YA

Babylon could be Oakland, California, or not. In any case, this is a book about the inner city and the teenagers who live there, their deep dilemmas, their affection for each other, and their loyalty to improving the lot of their community. On the provocative book cover, giant nails seem about to pierce the vulnerable, highlighted body of a young black man. So, too, in the story by Oakland author Jess Mowry: the teens find a suitcase of cocaine and must decide whether to sell it for the money that may provide them with opportunities or get rid of it before it helps to poison their community.

Mowry, Jess. *Ghost Train*.

Henry Holt, 1996. Gr. 6-9

Remi, who has just moved from Haiti to Oakland, is awakened on his first night by a monstrous locomotive coming toward his bedroom window. The next day, he finds only rusty tracks, so he and his friend Niya investigate the secret behind the ghostly train.

Murphy, Claire Rudolf. *Marching with Aunt Susan: Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Women's Suffrage*. Illus. by Stacey Schuett.

Peachtree, 2011. Gr 1-5

Bessie is not allowed to go hiking with her father and brothers simply because she is a girl. She learns about women's rights when she attends a suffrage rally led by Susan B. Anthony. Set in Northern California. 2012 Amelia Bloomer Project.

Murray, Yxta. *Good Girl's Guide to Getting Kidnapped*.

Razorbill, 2010. Gr. YA

Is Michelle the rising track star with a good life as a foster teen in Brentwood? Or, after being kidnapped by an ex-boyfriend, Princess P, Montebello gang princess? An ambiguous ending

allows readers to decide for themselves which life Michelle will ultimately choose. Both sides of Michelle are captured in the edgy, eye-catching cover.

Na, An. *A Step from Heaven*.

Front Street, 2001. Gr. YA

Young Ju is a daughter in a Korean immigrant family who relies upon social and psychological strengths when dealing with her father's failed assimilation to American life in Los Angeles. The United States is supposed to be a "step from heaven," but her father's reactions to employment and language problems are violent and complicated. Young Ju's sensitivity and intelligence allow her to overcome the hardships of family life and balance the contrasting expectations that come from her home and her school. 2002 ALA Notable Books for Children; 2002 Best Book for Young Adults; 2002 Michael L. Printz Award; 2001 National Book Award Honor.

Nasaw, Jonathan. *Shakedown Street*.

Delacorte, 1993. Gr. YA

Through a series of misadventures, Caro and her mother end up on the streets of San Francisco, homeless, broke, and scared. Managing to hook up with a group of homeless characters for protection, Caro sees her life change dramatically. When her mom is jailed, Caro comes very close to being raped while sleeping in a park and becoming a hooker to support herself. While most young homeless kids are not as fortunate as Caro in having so many near-misses, Nasaw gives a good glimpse into the lives of the homeless in our streets, and the refusal of many to even acknowledge their existence.

Nelson, Teresa. *Earthshine*.

Orchard Books, 1994. Gr. 5-8

When twelve-year-old Slim's father is attacked by AIDS, she joins a support group for children of AIDS sufferers at a Hollywood church. There she meets Isaiah and his pregnant, AIDS-stricken mother and is taken on an emotional rollercoaster ride from hope to anger to understanding. Poignant, but never sentimental, with quite a bit of humor to lighten the pain. 1995 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1995 ALA Best Book for Young Adults; 1995 Boston Globe Horn Book Honor.

Nelson, Theresa. *Ruby Electric*.

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003. Gr. 4-9

Twelve-year-old Ruby sees her life as a screenplay, one which Stephen Spielberg will one day produce. Smart, funny, spunky and courageous, Ruby sets out to solve the mystery of her disappearing father, to help her struggling single mom with her little brother, and to clean up the once-running Los Angeles River, which involves a fascinating discovery. An imaginative book with realistic and likeable characters. 2004 ALA Notable Books for Children.

Nielsen, Virginia. *Batty Hattie*.

Marshall Cavendish, 1999. Gr. 4-6

Harriet becomes fascinated with the bats her uncle studies when she stays with him in the middle of her 6<sup>th</sup> grade year. Life in a former California mining town, the residents' feeling about the bats, and Harriet's conflicts with her fellow students coalesce when she brings a bat to school.

Noguchi, Rick and Deneen Jenks. *Flowers from Mariko*. Illus. by Michelle Reiko Kumata  
Lee & Low Books, 2001. Gr. 2-6

A thoughtful picture book portraying one family's return to California after three years in an internment camp during World War II. Mariko's father's truck and gardening tools have disappeared with their former landlord. As her father struggles to reestablish his landscaping business, often frustrated and discouraged, Mariko plants a flower garden reminiscent of the one their family had before the war. When the flowers begin to bloom, they come to symbolize the family's rebirth and hope in the future.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Earthquake in the Early Morning*.  
Random House, 2001. Gr. K-4

Jack and Annie travel to San Francisco in 1906, just in time to experience the great earthquake and firestorm. As usual, Osborne throws in some true facts throughout this Magic Tree House book.

Partridge, Elizabeth. *Oranges on Golden Mountain*.  
Dutton Children's Books, 2001. Gr. 2-5

This beautifully told picture book, told from Jo Lee's youthful perspective, depicts the Chinese immigrant experience to California and particularly the San Francisco Bay region in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. You feel his love for family, fear of separation, and hope for a better future when joined by his mother and little sister. The spiritual element of his gentle Hun softens the real loneliness and strange surroundings of his new home. Aki Sogabe's intriguing and colorful cut paper illustrations soar with drama and – like Jo Lee's Hun – a deep desire to connect. Provides details such as the “dancing” on the shrimp that add lots of child appeal.

Patron, Susan. *Lucky Breaks*.  
Atheneum Books, 2009. Gr. 4 – 6

Lucky makes a new friend, gets stuck in a well, meets up with a wild burro, discards something she didn't know was precious, and discovers the secret of the universe in this charming and funny sequel to the Newbery Award-winning *The Higher Power of Lucky*.

Patron, Susan. *Lucky for Good*.  
Atheneum, 2011. Gr. 3-6

Eleven-year-old Lucky is back with more questions about life, love and the universe and she will continue to shake things up with her friends, family, and town of Hard Pan. When the County Health Department threatens to close down the heart of the community, residents of Hard Pan (with Lucky as their leader) will ban together in the most unlikely ways to fight for what is right. This is the last part of the Lucky trilogy, and readers will not be disappointed as Lucky's vivacious attitude will always last... for good.

Paulsen, Gary. *The Voyage of the Frog*.  
Orchard Books, 1989. Gr. 6-8

When fourteen-year-old David sails out to sea to scatter his uncle's ashes, he is caught in a fierce storm that pushes him many miles from his home port of Ventura. This gripping survival story describes the ocean life off the California coast. 1990 ALA Notable Book for Children.

Pearce, Jonathan. *The Far Side of the Moon*.

Infinity Pub., 2001. Gr. 6-9

A touching and ultimately fascinating, if not immediately easy, novel about the 77 member Aizu Wakamatsu Colony in Coloma in 1870-71. Having fled civil war in Japan, they tried to start a tea and silkworm farm in partnership with a German immigrant family, only to be faced with overwhelming violence and prejudice on the part of some American miners. This story is told in two voices - Kei, a young Japanese woman and Julius, a young American boy. It's a story that tells of acceptance, perseverance, hard work, personal ethics and strength, of gold rush rowdies, squatters and "foreigners." Some German and Japanese characters are based on real people, as was their attempt to engage in tea and silkworm farming.

Pearson, Gayle. *One Potato, Tu: Seven Stories*.

Atheneum, 1992. Gr. 5-8

Seven inter-related stories set in Oakland introduce thirteen-year-old Lindsay, her family, friends and neighbors. These well-crafted tales reward the reader with plenty of humor, perceptive characterization, and just enough insight to satisfy.

Perez, L. King. *Ghoststalking*.

Carolrhoda Books, 1995. Gr. 4-6

To produce the best science fair project, Chuy convinces his friend Emilio to camp in the Southern California mountains and find the ghost "La Llorona" who grieves for the children she drowned, and then to document their experience. A fun Latino ghost story.

Perkins, Mitali. *The Sunita Experiment*.

Little Brown, 1993. Gr. 7-10

When her grandparents from India come to visit her in Northern California, thirteen-year-old Sunita is caught between cultures and embarrassed by the differences she feels between herself and her friends.

Perkins, Stephanie. *Lola and the Boy Next Door*.

Dutton, 2011. Gr. 9-11

Seventeen-year-old Lola Nolan's life is outrageously perfect in San Francisco, California. She has a best friend who shares her same quirky habits, two supportive (yet a little strict) dads, a smoking hot rock star boyfriend and a budding career as a costume designer. Lola is ready to conquer the world as soon as she graduates but in an instant her perfect life is flipped upside down as her first love and heartbreak moves back in next door. Will the return of the boy who broke her heart ruin Lola's chances of following her dreams, or will he make them come true? 2012 Best Fiction for Young Adults.

Perrin, Randy. *Time Like a River*.

RDR Books/Orca, 1997. Gr. 5-8

This time-travel novel links a contemporary Jewish-American family in Berkeley with a family of Chinese immigrants during the California Gold Rush period. Teenaged Margie's delving into the diary of a nineteenth-century herbalist as part of a history project leads her to take a fantastic journey into the past - and to the correct diagnosis of the mysterious disease that is killing her

mother. This book is a family writing project; Randy Perrin wrote it with his daughters Hannah and Tova.

Petersen, P.J. *Liars*.

Simon & Schuster, 1992. Gr. 6-8

Sam discovers that he is able to detect water underground, and is even more surprised when this power allows him to know when people are lying. When Uncle Gene's prospecting maps become the object of desire for a mysterious person, Jake finds himself torn between believing his newly discovered power and taking the word of people who he has always trusted. Set in Northern California.

Philbrick, Rodman. *The Journal of Douglas Allen Deeds: The Donner Party Expedition, 1864*.

Scholastic, 2001. Gr. 4-8

As he departs from Independence, Missouri in 1846, Deeds, a fictional 15-year old orphan, begins his journal: "Today I embark on a great journey." Traveling across the Great Plains, he forges wild rivers, glimpses buffalo for the first time, traverses mountain ranges and attempts an ill fated short cut through a canyon that uses up precious time. The final third of *The Journal* details the forced encampment at Donner Lake and Deed's grueling journey with a small party to seek help. He avoids witnessing and partaking in cannibalism by running off into the forest, surviving to return with a rescue party. Philbrick provides a realistic account of the most infamous crossing of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range.

Polacco, Patricia. *Chicken Sunday*.

Philomel, 1992. Gr. K-3

Each Sunday Mrs. Eula Steward walks to church with her grandsons Stewart and Winton and their friend, Patricia, and each Sunday, she stops to admire a beautiful hat in Mr. Kodinski's shop along College Avenue in Oakland. When the three children are accused of harassing Mr. Kodinski, they come up with an idea that sets them well on the way to buying the hat for Mrs. Eula as well as clearing their name. This loving story is based on the author's own life in Oakland, where she grew up with Winton and Stewart and shared Mrs. Eula's delicious Sunday chicken dinners. 1993 ALAN Notable Book for Children; 1992 Golden Kite Award.

Polacco, Patricia. *I Can Hear the Sun*.

Philomel, 1996. Gr. K-3

Fondo, a homeless boy, befriends the geese at Lake Merritt in Oakland, especially watching out for the blind goose. When Fondo is to be sent away to a special school, the geese invite Fondo to fly away with them.

Polacco, Patricia. *Tikvah Means Hope*.

Doubleday, 1994. Gr. P-3

After a devastating fire in the hills of Oakland during Sukkoth, a Jewish family and their neighbors find Tikvah the cat a symbol of hope amidst the ashes.

Porter, Tracey. *Treasures in the Dust*.

HarperCollins, 1997. Gr. 5-7

Set in the Great Depression when Oklahoma's Dust Bowl is at its peak, this is the story of two eleven-year-old friends, Violet and Annie. The girls are separated when Violet's family, rather than risk losing their farm to creditors, sets out for California. In alternating chapters, the girls tell their families' stories, describing the hardship of working as migrant farm workers in California and living in the midst of unrelenting dust storms and drought in rural Oklahoma. Hope still endures as their friendship, continued through letters, sustains them. 1999 ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

Poynter, Margaret. *A Time Too Swift*.

Atheneum, 1990. Gr. 7-10

Living in San Diego in the 1940s, fifteen-year-old Marjorie's romantic view of war is changed when war affects her own family and friends, including a Japanese classmate. The city of San Diego, full of soldiers and sailors and their families, is effectively portrayed. [OP]

Prinz, Yvonne. *All You Get is Me*.

HarperTeen, 2011. Gr. 9 and up

When Aurora and her father witness a fatal accident, they are launched into a politically charged battle to seek justice for a family who has no rights as illegal migrant farm workers. Set in the rural California bay area, *All You Get Is Me* has themes of displacement, civil rights, and romance. Prinz highlights the beauty and simplicity of life on an organic farm while addressing the plight of illegal migrant farm workers.

Prinz, Yvonne. *The Vinyl Princess*. (2010 Beatty Award )

Harper, 2010. Gr. YA

In this enjoyable debut YA novel, Allie works at a record store that specializes in used vinyl LPs. This perfectly captures the flavor of Berkeley's Telegraph Avenue. The novel's skillfully drawn cast of characters is infused with humor, romance, unexpected plot twists, all revolving around Berkeley's unique brand of California culture.

Pryor, Bonnie. *The Iron Dragon: the Courageous Story of Lee Chin*.

Enslow, 2010. Gr. 4-7

Twelve year old Lee Chin, his cousin Yi, and his father have come to America to help build the transcontinental railroad. After family tragedy (dire economic circumstances forced Lee's father to sell his younger sister Sunshine into slavery) and a harrowing Pacific crossing, Lee Chin is placed as a cook's assistant in a Chinese labor camp. The exciting plot moves at a quick pace, and Lee Chin is an engaging, if sometimes unrealistically optimistic, protagonist who demonstrates tenacity and makes the most of the opportunities offered to him. Historical details about the building of the Transcontinental Railroad and the often brutal treatment of Chinese workers are honest and accurate.

Purdy, Carol. *Nesuya's Basket*.

Roberts Rinehart, 1997. Gr. 6+

The traditional ceremonies, rituals, and prescribed roles for tribal members shape the characters and events in this fictionalized account of one year (1842-1843) in the life of a young Maidu girl.



The preface, glossary, and historical notes explain some of the special ways of the Maidu Indians of northern California, such as the cycle of dance ceremonies, the Ostu (burning of valuable articles to honor the dead), and the secret society to honor young males. Part of *The Council for Indian Education* series.

Reeder, Carolyn. *Foster's War*.  
Scholastic Press, 1998. Gr. 5-8

The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor, and life for Foster Simmons in San Diego is changed forever. As the war effort consumes the neighborhood and the school, Foster struggles to please his authoritarian father and worries about his brother who is now shipped overseas as a gunner on a B-26. While war is waged in Europe and Asia, Foster must fight his own battles on the home front.

Rees, Douglas. *Majix: Notes from a Serious Teen Witch*.  
Harlequin Teen, 2010. Gr. YA

Kestrel lives with her aunt in Southern California, where they both practice Wicca traditions. This doesn't set well with some school authorities, in this humorous novel with a touch of romance.

Reinhardt, Dana. *The Summer I Learned to Fly*.  
Wendy Lamb Books, 2011. Gr. 6-9

Drew has always kept to herself until the summer before eighth grade when she works in her mother's gourmet shop in sunny southern California. This summer brings a first crush and heartache, revelations about her recently deceased dad, much needed independence, and most importantly, a friendship with the mysterious Emmett Crane, which is one that will change Drew's life forever.

Reiss, Kathryn. *Paperquake: A Puzzle*.  
Harcourt Brace, 1998. Gr. 5-8

The odd one out in a set of triplets, Violet has suffered from a heart condition and a fear of earthquakes for as long as she can remember. After the discovery of long-lost love letters from "Hal" to "V" in a 1906 diary, the visions of earthquakes Violet endures grow to parallel what happened during the great San Francisco earthquake. Part mystery, fantasy, history, and romance, this tale weaves through more coincidences and plot twists than San Francisco's famous Lombard Street.

Ritter, John H. *The Boy Who Saved Baseball*.  
Philomel Books, 2003. Gr. 5-8

What happens when the local ragtag summer camp baseball team faces the neighboring all-stars with 320 acres of prime real estate and their town's historic baseball field at stake? Welcome to Dillontown, situated in the mountains east of San Diego. What will it take to win this crucial game and banish the developers in order to retain the town's rural lifestyle? The week before the big game a mysterious boy, Cruz de la Cruz, arrives on horseback with his bat slung across his saddle and a computer game that can mimic any pitch. Cruz's leadership, combined with the coaching ability of former major league player Dante Del Gato, create a suspenseful story told

through the eyes of 12-year-old Tom Gallagher. Fast-paced, with play-by-play action and a satisfying ending combine to make this novel a home run.

Robinet, Harriette. *Twelve Travelers, Twenty Horses*.

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003. Gr. 5-8

Meet Jacob Israel Christmas, a thirteen-year-old slave, on the auction block for the third time and sold to "Honorable Mister," a free-spending adventurer who buys himself ten slaves and plans to take them from Missouri to California on the eve of the 1860 presidential election. Jacob juggles looking out for his mute and seemingly slow but clever young friend, Solomon, hiding the fact that the sale has reunited him with his mother, and trying to stop a plot to steal California's gold for the Confederacy. Along the way Jacob and his fellow slaves use plenty of initiative and learn to work as a team, first for their kindly but mysterious master, and then for themselves. Young people who are fascinated by quirky characters as well as the interplay between westward expansion and the end of slavery are sure to enjoy this fast and sometimes humorous read.

Robles, Anthony D. *Lakas and the Manilatown Fish / Si Lakas at ang Isdang Manilatown*.

Children's Book Press, 2003. Gr. K-5

Robles, along with illustrator Carl Angel, delightfully combine a silly and imaginative tale of a talking, kissing fish with vividly colorful and expressive illustrations to introduce to young readers an old San Francisco neighborhood known as Manilatown. Presented in bilingual English-Tagalog languages, the story integrates San Francisco's rich Philipino past with the present.

Rocklin, Joanne. *Jace the Ace*.

Macmillan, 1990. Gr. 3-5

Jace is still getting used to Los Angeles when he hears a young man discussing a code and is sure he's on the track of a spy. Sequel to *Sonia Begonia*.

Rocklin, Joanne. *One Day and One Amazing Morning on Orange Street*. (2012 Beatty Award).

Abrams, 2011. Grades 4-7

Warm story revolving around a Southern California neighborhood's one remaining orange tree and the secrets told, grand ideas shared, and events witnessed in its presence. The neighborhood and the orange tree's importance are depicted in a series of vignettes told from the point of view of the children and adults living on the street.

Ross, Sylvia. *Blue Jay Girl*.

Heyday Books, 2010. Gr. 3-6

Blue Jay Girl is a brave Yaudanchi child, but her bravery makes it hard for her to have friends. The parents of the other children in the village won't let them play with her, because she is a dangerous child. Lonely, Blue Jay Girl visits Opodo Kouteun and his wife to help her change her personality; they teach her instead to use her strong spirit and intelligence to become a healer and protector of her tribe. Bright illustrations compliment this story of accepting one's own nature and using it to the best of your ability, set in the historical Central Valley.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Esperanza Rising*.  
Scholastic, 2000. Gr. 4-YA

With deep pathos, tenderness, and humor, Ryan tells the story of Esperanza, her maternal grandmother. She recalls how her grandmother would cry from remembering how people reached out and helped her and her family through desperate trying times of the Great Depression. In the story, Esperanza (only a child) and her mother must leave Mexico after her father's murder. With their privileged life behind, they must learn how to become farm workers in the labor camps of Southern California. This may be the first story for young people that tells of the giant sweeps of hundreds of thousands of Mexican farm workers in the 1930s – including some who were U.S. citizens – who were summarily relocated to Mexico as part of a program by California farmers to prevent unionization and keep down wages. 2002 ALA Notable; 2001 ALA Best Book for Young Adults; 2001 Jane Addams Book Award; 2001 Notable Social Studies Trade Book; 2001 ALA Ten Best Books for Young Adults.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Riding Freedom*.  
Scholastic Press, 1998. Gr. 5-8

A fictionalized account about the daring life of Charlotte Darkey Parkhurst ("One-Eyed Charley"). As a 12-year-old girl, Charlotte disguises herself as a boy to run away from a New Hampshire orphanage, and from then on – until she is dressed for burial – everyone assume she is male. Set during the mid-ninetieth century, Charlotte has many adventures as a stable hand and a coach driver. Along the way, she loses an eye, becomes the first woman to vote, and eventually owns her own California ranch.

Sachs, Marilyn. *At the Sound of the Beep*.  
Dutton, 1990. Gr. 5-8

When twins Matthew and Matilda run away from home, they hope to stay with their uncle who lives across the street from San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. In fact, their uncle is away, and they end up living in the park, where the after-dark community of the homeless is being stalked by a murderer. Sachs' knowledge of the setting heightens the realism and tension of the plot.  
[OP]

Salat, Cristina. *Living in Secret*.  
Bantam, 1993. Gr. 5-7

Amelia runs away from her father and his girlfriend to be with her mother, who was not granted custody. This means changing her name, living with her mother's lesbian lover, and not being around her mother for months while authorities search for her. Living in secret means more than dyeing her hair, pretending to be older, and having a private tutor. It also means handling the strangeness of a new house and new city, having to lie or cover-up with a potential friend, and being very lonely and isolated. Is living in secret worth it? [OP]

Sandoval, Victor M. *Roll Over, Big Toben*.  
Pinata, 2003. Gr. 6-10

A touching and uplifting story about David Lopez, a 15-year-old Mexican American, who suffers great loss and sadness in his Los Angeles neighborhood. This is a story of one boy's struggle to break free from the cycle of violence in the barrio.

Santiago, Chiori. *Home to Medicine Mountain*.

Children's Book Press, 1998. Gr. 2-4

The true story of two Maidu Indian brothers sent from their Northern California home to live in a government-run Indian boarding school in Riverside in Southern California. Separated from their family, the boys grow homesick and find life at the strict school dreary. The dark and angular illustrations in the story come to life as we view dreams of the brothers' tribe. After the boys hop on a train and travel the length of California to go back home, they learn a lesson about life, love, and family. 1999 ALA Notable Book for Children.

Savin, Marcia. *The Moon Bridge*.

Scholastic, 1992, Gr. 4-6

Ruthie befriends Mitzi, a Japanese girl, and witnesses the racial hatred in San Francisco at the time of World War II. Separated during the war, the girls maintain their friendship. Written mostly in dialogue, this is good light reading.

Say, Allen. *The Favorite Daughter*.

Arthur A. Levine Books, 2013. Gr. 4-7

The 1994 Caldecott Medal-winning author and illustrator Allen Say returns with another beautifully-illustrated personal story, this time about his real-life American-born daughter Yuriko. Yuriko, whose parents presumably are divorced, arrives at her father's home in San Francisco requesting a baby picture of herself for her class. Her father produces a photo of a blonde-haired toddler with almond-shaped eyes wearing a crimson kimono, and she calls it "perfect." Soon after this, Yuriko returns from school rather upset from being teased by some of the other students. She asks that her father give her an "American name." Throughout the story, the father is patient and kind, gently trying to reengage his daughter with her Japanese culture.

Schwartz, Henry. *Albert Goes Hollywood*. Illus. by. Amy Schwartz.

Orchard Books, 1992. Gr. P-K

Albert, the pet dinosaur discovered in Baja, makes movies to help pay his food bills. Amy Schwartz's illustrations highlight this book.

Senzai, N. H. *Shooting Kabul*.

Simon & Schuster, 2010. Gr. 5-8

Fadi and his family flee Afghanistan, but in the rush to escape, little sister Mariam is left behind. From Fremont, California, the family tries to get her back, and deal with the prejudice that is a result of the 9/11 attacks. Fremont's —Little Kabull and large Middle Eastern and East Indian populations are depicted authentically. A debut novel, at times this is somewhat melodramatic but with excellent characterizations. Based on the author's husband's family.

Simmons, Michael. *Pool Boy*.

Roaring Brook Press, 2003. Gr. YA

Life feels perfect for Brent until the police tackle his stockbroker dad in their kitchen, lead him away in handcuffs, and charge him with insider trading and money laundering. Following his dad's conviction, sale of the family home, and move to his great-aunt's house on the other side of the tracks, Brett gets a summer job cleaning pools. How bad can life get? It seemingly hits rock bottom when Brett returns to his former home to clean its pool. By this time, Brett really hates his dad. He questions why his mom stands by his father and puts up a fight when required

to visit dad in jail. Through the course of the summer, Brett learns what is really important in life. His friendship with his 70-year-old boss, Alfie, gives him experiences and insights beyond his years. A thought-provoking, contemporary story balanced with humor as Brett discovers the worth of hard work, experiences loss, and learns forgiveness.

Singer, Marilyn. *California Demon*.

Hyperion, 1992. Gr. 5-8

Rosie accidentally releases a nasty little imp who winds up in California where he creates havoc for an unsuspecting family. Snow on the Los Angeles beaches at Christmas time? Someone has to stop this California Demon!

Smith, D. James *The Boys of San Joaquin*.

Atheneum, 2005. Gr. 4-7

Twelve-year-old Paolo discovers more than treasure when his dog Rufus comes running home with a piece of a twenty-dollar bill in his teeth. Just when Paolo and his cousin, Billy, think that they have unearthed the rest of the treasure in the church graveyard, a hand reaches up and grabs Paolo's neck. The search for the buried treasure leads the boys on a rash of scary adventures as they grow up in a small town in the San Joaquin Valley in 1951. [IP, 2006]

Smith, D. James. *Fast Company*.

DK Ink, 1999. Gr. YA

Teenagers Cat, Ozzie, Doug, Karendeep, and Jason are the members of the Ravens rollerblading gang in Whitson, California. Restless, emotionally unsupported, and yearning for a way out of their dusty town, Jason find his life careening out of control as Cat attempts to find direction in her own life.

Smith, Icy. *Mei Ling in China City*. Illus. by Gayle Garner Roski.

East West Discovery Press, 2008. Gr.1 – 6

Based on a true story of events during World War II in Los Angeles China City, a 12-year old Chinese American girl named Mei Ling Lee was separated from her best friend Yayeko Akiyama when she and her family were interned in the Manzanar War Relocation Center. By writing letters to each other, both young girls described their lives and hardships in China City and Manzanar. This unprecedented children's book depicts the cross-cultural experiences of Americans of Chinese and Japanese ancestry during the war years.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. *Cat Running*. (1995 Beatty Award)

Delacorte, 1994. Gr. 5-7

Eleven-year-old Cat is ecstatic when she finds a secret grotto where she can temporarily escape from her troubles at home, but her hideaway is soon discovered by Okie children who are staying at a camp for dust bowl refugees nearby. Drawn unwillingly into their world, Cat slowly opens her eyes and her heart to them and learns some painful lessons about herself.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. *Fool's Gold*.

Delacorte, 1993. Gr. 5-8

Reluctant to admit that he suffers from claustrophobia and anxious not to alienate his friends, Rudy tries to find a way to distract them from pursuing their plan to explore an abandoned gold mine in Northern California.

Sones, Sonya. *One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies*.

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004. Gr. YA

Delightful free verse portrays 15-year old Ruby, whose mother has recently died, and who is now forced to move to Hollywood and live with the father she's never known, a well-known actor. She vents her anger and grief at leaving her best friend, boyfriend, and home in biting and poignant prose directed at her father, California (referred to as Caliphonya or Califeelia) and in email to her dead mother. Brilliantly captures the essence of Hollywood's fairy tale glamour, a teenager's angst, and the southern California lifestyle of the rich and famous. Think Francesca Lia Block mixed with Princess Diaries. 2005 ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

Soto, Gary. *Baseball in April and Other Stories*. (1991 Beatty Award)

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990. Gr. 6-8

Gary Soto brings a poet's voice to these short stories about Chicano kids living in the San Joaquin Valley - Alfonso in the agony of first love, Manuel in an unexpected triumph at the school talent show, and Veronica with her fake Barbie doll. These are stories that reassure us about the universality of childhood while reminding us about the uniqueness of a particular cultural heritage. 1996 Pura Belpre Honor.

Soto, Gary. *Buried Onions*.

Harcourt Brace, 1997. Gr. YA

Nineteen-year-old Eddie's father, best friend, and cousin are all dead from brutal incidents in their violence-infested neighborhood of Fresno. Eddie's aunt wants him to avenge his cousin Jesus' murder. Eddie wants a future. This starkly realistic portrait of a young Mexican-American man trying to come to terms with his life in a society where he has little control makes for compelling reading. 1998 ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

Soto, Gary. *Chato's Kitchen*. Illus. by Susan Guevara.

Putnam, 1995. Gr. P-2

Chato is a "low-rider" cat who tries to trick a family of mice who have just moved into his East LA neighborhood into becoming his dinner. Fortunately, the mice have a special friend who innocently saves them. This tale for all ages comes alive with the dramatic illustrations by Susan Guevara. 1996 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1996 Pura Belpre Award; 1995 Tomas Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award.

Soto, Gary. *Crazy Weekend*.

Scholastic, 1994. Gr. 5-8

Hector and his brother Mondo, middle-school kids from East L.A., witness a robbery while they are visiting their uncle in Fresno. Their high-energy behavior contrasts humorously with the somewhat dim-witted robbers.

Soto, Gary. *Help Wanted*.

Harcourt, 2005. Gr. 7-10

In this collection of 10 short stories, Gary Soto explores the lives of young Mexican American teens struggling to find themselves while trying to make sense of the weird people in their world. With humor and insight, the author writes about the oddities of everyday life. Teens like Carolina, who writes to Miss Manners for advice as she dreams of a polite and perfect family, or Daniel, who finds it hard to believe that his loving grandmother who is always so kind and well dressed is wanted for passing bad checks, wrestle with family or cultural issues that will capture the hearts and imaginations of all young teenagers. [IP, 2006]

Soto, Gary. *Jesse*.

Harcourt, 1994. Gr. YA

Seventeen-year-old Jesse leaves home and school and joins his older brother in sharing an apartment and taking college classes in Fresno. They struggle to survive and grow as their lives are affected by poverty, the Vietnam War, and the farm workers' strike.

Soto, Gary. *Off and Running*.

Delacorte, 1996. Gr. 4-7

Rudy and Alex, from Soto's previous books, *The Pool Party* and *Boys at Work*, decide to run in the school election. Their opposition consists of Miata and Ana, from Soto's short novel *The Skirt*.

Soto, Gary. *Petty Crimes*.

Harcourt Brace, 1998. Gr. 5-8

Minor scam artists, shoplifters, bullies and persecuted nice kids populate these sad and humorous stories about Latino teens in the Central Valley whose most serious crime is poverty.

Soto, Gary. *The Pool Party*.

Delacorte, 1993. Gr. 4-6

Ten-year-old Rudy Herrera is excited about an invitation to a pool party from the richest girl in school and he gets advice from his family about how to behave. Set in Central California.

Soto, Gary. *The Skirt*.

Delacorte, 1992. Gr. 3-6

Miata forgets her folklorico skirt on the school bus one Friday afternoon and is forced to take matters into her own hands before Sunday's performance.

Soto, Gary. *Summer on Wheels*. (1996 Beatty Award)

Scholastic, 1995. Gr. 4-6

Hector and Mondo have all kinds of adventures as they travel from their East LA home to the Santa Monica beach, staying with family. From being in a TV commercial to going to a Dodgers game, this sequel to *Crazy Weekend* will delight young readers with the friends' escapades.

Soto, Gary. *Taking Sides*.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. Gr. 5-8

Lincoln Mendoza moves from San Francisco's Mission District to a middle-class suburb where his classmates are mostly white. He finds his loyalties put to the test when his new junior high plays his old one in basketball. This modern immigrant's journey from resentment and divided loyalties to the small steps that lead to self-knowledge and acceptance will ring true to readers of all backgrounds.

Spinka, Penina Keen. *Mother's Blessing*.

Atheneum, 1992. Gr. 6-8

This prequel to *White Hare's Horses* is set five hundred years earlier and explores the possible beginnings of Chumash mythology. As in the first book, Spinka has done considerable research into Chumash history, but characterizations are unconvincing. [OP]

Spinka, Penina Keen. *White Hare's Horses*.

Atheneum, 1991. Gr. 5-8

Eleven-year-old White Hare belongs to the sixteenth-century Chumash people living in the coastal mountains of California. The story of her fight to awaken the people to the threats of the Aztecs who first bring her people horses is well-researched, but characterization and dialogue are disturbingly contemporary. [OP]

Spurr, Elizabeth. *Mama's Birthday Surprise*.

Hyperion, 1996. Gr. 3-4

A heartwarming story about a Mexican-born widow who is raising her three children in Glendale, California. Mama tells extravagant tales about her Uncle Cesar's wealth and generosity. When her skeptical children insist on going to Guadalajara to meet their uncle, they learn some surprising things about Uncle Cesar.

Stanley, Diane. *Elena*.

Hyperion, 1996. Gr. 4-6

When the Mexican Revolution of 1910 threatens her family in Jalisco, the young and newly widowed Elena follows her beloved husband's directive, and flees across the border to safety in Santa Ana, California. There, her four children grow up as Americans. Most of the action occurs in Mexico in this brief novel based on a true experience.

Staples, Donna. *Arena Beach*.

Houghton Mifflin, 1993. Gr. YA

Seventeen-year-old Terra Bliss, the daughter of an ex-Berkeley hippie who channels, finds that instead of her life focusing on graduating and becoming a full-time auto mechanic, her routine is turned upside down by the arrival of her long-lost father, the pressure from a surfer boyfriend who wants their relationship to become more serious, the demands of her mother who wants Terra to go to college, and the 1989 Northern California earthquake. There's a lot to cover here in a single novel, but Staples does an admirable job, allowing Terra the wisdom to follow her instincts and accept the challenges before her.



Taylor, Theodore. *Maria: A Christmas Story*.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. Gr. 4-6

Maria vows that her family will have a float in the local Christmas parade, which has traditionally involved only Anglos. Her fight to raise the registration fee and come up with a float is the start of a wonderful tradition for the Mexican- American families in her small Central California town.

Telgemeier, Raina. *Smile*.

Graphix, 2010. Gr. 5-9

The author's autobiographical account of her multi-year ordeal with orthodontia, made even more complex by a fall that severely injured her two front teeth, will strike home with anyone who has had to wear braces. Raina deals with mean friends, an unrequited crush, an earthquake, and never-ending trips to one dentist after another in this humorous and poignant coming of age graphic novel set in San Francisco.

Thomas, Rob. *Satellite Down*.

Simon & Schuster, 1998. Gr. YA

Small town high school senior Patrick Sheridan's journalistic skills win him a job as a student reporter with "Classroom Direct", a television news show beamed to classrooms around the country. The move to Los Angeles, life on his own, an assignment in Ireland and the search for his identity demand all the maturity this self-assured teen can muster.

Uchida, Yoshiko. *The Bracelet*.

Philomel, 1993. Gr. 3-6

Emi, a Japanese-American girl in the second grade, is sent with her family to an internment camp during World War II, but the loss of the bracelet her best friend gave her proves that she does not need a physical reminder of that friendship. Set in Northern California. 1993 New York Time Best Illustrated Book.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Sammy Keyes and the Hollywood Mummy*.

Alfred A. Knopf, 2001. Gr. 4-8

When Sammy and her sidekick, Marissa, set out for Hollywood in search of Sammy's mother, a wanna-be Hollywood actress, they do not find much glamour. But they do solve the mysterious murder of an actress who had been competing with Sammy's mother for an important role. Doesn't give much of the local color of Hollywood, but it does give a haunting portrait of the lengths to which young women will go to get into the movie business. Another first-rate treat with Sammy!

Van Raven, Pieter. *A Time of Troubles*.

Scribners, 1990. Gr. 6+

A powerful picture of California in the 1930s and of a troubled father/son relationship, this book describes Rod and Harlow's journey from the East Coast to California, where the promises they have followed turn into the prejudice and strikes portrayed for adults in Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. 1991 Scott O'Dell Award. [OP]

Wadsworth, Ginger. *Yosemite's Songster: One Coyote's Story*. Illus. Daniel San Souci. Yosemite Conservancy, 2013. Gr. PreK-2

A coyote roams the Yosemite National Park after being separated from her mate. Illustrations provide a glimpse of the National Park and its more recognizable features. Onomatopoeias transform the book into a lively tale where sound is ever present. Written in poetic verses and illustrated with gorgeous paintings, Yosemite comes alive in the pages.

Walter, Virginia. *Making Up Megaboy*. DK Ink, 1998. Gr. YA

When thirteen-year-old Robbie shoots an old man in a liquor store, everyone who knows the quiet, withdrawn youth struggles to understand his act of seemingly random violence. It is suspected that there must be something here that no one else sees. Who, for instance, is Megaboy? 1999 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1999 ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

West, Tracey. *Fire in the Valley*. Silver Moon Press, 1993. Gr. 2-4

Twelve-year-old Sarah's feelings about life on her family's Central Valley farm change when she writes a letter to President Teddy Roosevelt to protest diverting water for use by the growing city of Los Angeles and when she saves her twin brother from a fire.

Wells, Rosemary. *On the Blue Comet*. Candlewick Press, 2010, Gr. 4-8

After losing their house and their precious train sets due to the great stock market crash, eleven year-old Oscar Ogilvie is forced to live with his Aunt Carmen and his cousin, Willa Sue, while his dad tries to find steady work in California. *On the Blue Comet* is filled with beautifully colored and realistic pictures of the style of how people dressed and decorated their homes during the Great Depression and with words that reflects a child's voice and a child's understanding of the Great Stock Market Crash. The California setting is depicted in descriptions of the Brown Derby, Joan Crawford's Hollywood home, and the great migration of farmers to California in search of prosperity.

Williams, Sherley Anne. *Working Cotton*. Illus. by Carole Byard. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992. Gr. K-4

This poem tells of an African-American family picking cotton not in the South, but in the Central Valley of California. (Only the book jacket mentions California.) The poem is illustrated with stunning paintings by Carole Byard. 1993 Caldecott Honor; 1993 Coretta Scott King Honor.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer*. Amistad, 2010, Gr. 4-7

Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern spend a summer in Oakland in the late 1960's, with their mother, Cecile, who abandoned them. Besides accurately capturing the tone, dialogue, and clothing of the Black Panthers, this novel focuses on growing up and captures greatly a child's voice and the dialogue of African-Americans during that time period.

Willner-Pardo, Gina. *The Hard Kind of Promise*.

Clarion/Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Gr. 4-7

Sarah and her best friend Marjorie approach sixth grade in different ways, although they have been best friends since Kindergarten. Marjorie is fine with being an outsider/film club geek, but Sarah wants to try and fit in with the more popular crowd. Sarah's first person voice and the situation are very realistic, giving many tween girl readers a book that they will relate to. Set in the Bay Area, Sarah's chorus club goes to Southern California for a competition.

Wilson, Diane Lee. *Black Storm Comin'*.

Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2005. Gr. 6-10

Set in the 1860s, this exciting story of a mixed-race boy who hides his background to become a pony express rider gives the reader a good feel for the pony express route through the Sierra Nevada Mountains in this story of tragedy, suspense, moral dilemmas, and hair raising rides. Young Colton leaves behind his younger sisters and his sick mother in a race against time as he rides the dangerous route through the Eastern Sierra to deliver mail to the outlying posts and freedom papers to his aunt in Sacramento. [IP, 2006]

Winters, Cat. *In the Shadow of Blackbirds*.

Amulet Books, 2013. Gr. 9-12

Mary Shelley Black has just been sent to San Diego to live with her aunt. Besides widespread panic about the flu epidemic, she has to contend with spiritualists making money off people's misery and trying to use her image to do it. She is devastated when her best friend dies in the war and confused when he comes back as a ghost. Will she be able to help his spirit find peace? 2014 YALSA Best Books for Young Adults.

Wolff, Ashley. *Stella and Roy*.

Dutton, 1993. Gr. P

Even though Stella's bike is much faster than Roy's, he manages to win their race around the park because she keeps stopping to enjoy its natural beauty. Set in Northern California.

Wolff, Ashley. *Stella & Roy Go Camping*.

Dutton, 1999. Gr. K-3

Stella identifies the many animal tracks Roy finds on their family's backpacking trip in the Sierra Mountains, but it's Roy who sees the surprise visitor that night.

Wong, Angi Ma. *Night of the Red Moon*.

Pacific Heritage Books, 1994. Gr. 4-6

A stiffly written, but historically interesting, novel about a Chinese immigrant tong war and European America's reaction to it.

Wood, Audrey. *The Bunyans*. Illus. by David Shannon.

Blue Sky, 1996. Gr. K-3

In this original tall tale, Paul Bunyan has married a giantess and they have two giant children. Just by accident, they create many of America's natural wonders, including California's Big Sur. Illustrated by David Shannon.

Woods, Brenda. *Emako Blue*.

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2004. Gr. YA

Emako, talented, beautiful, and determined, should have been a star, but will never have that opportunity. Four classmates reveal in alternating chapters how their brief relationship with Emako made a difference in their lives. Each scene, from East Los Angeles to Melrose Ave. and Rodeo Drive, vividly depicts Los Angeles and its distinct neighborhoods. Each character is memorable in this short and poignant memorial.

Woods, Brenda. *A Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame*.

Putnam, 2010. Gr. YA

What could earn a tenth-grader a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame? The nine students in Ms. Hart's creative writing class face this question as their final essay assignment of the year. Each chapter is told from the perspective of one of the students, interspersed with third-person chapters relating moments in the classroom and the thinking of Ms. Hart. Short chapters each have a distinct voice, and the nine students come alive as they confront their difficulties both great and small. The book ends with the students' essays, and the feeling that each of them has surely earned his or her star.

Yee, Paul. *Tales from Gold Mountain: Stories of the Chinese in the New World*.

Macmillan, 1990. Gr. 4-8

These eight original stories based on Chinese immigrant experiences in the United States and Canada include several set in California. [OP]

Yep, Laurence. *The Amah*.

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1999. Gr. 4-6

Amy Chin finds parallels in her stage role as Cinderella's stepsister and her own San Francisco home life when her mother accepts a new job as a Chinese nanny.

Yep, Laurence. *Angelfish*.

G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2001.

Set in contemporary San Francisco's Chinatown and Richmond District, this installment of the Ribbons series deals with the Chinese Cultural Revolution and with the emotional aspects of being biracial. Robin, a young Chinese-American, and old Mr. Tsow, an old Chinese immigrant, have a developing friendship, which helps them better understand each other, and helps us understand them. Well written and compelling.

Yep, Laurence. *The Case of the Firecrackers*.

HarperCollins, 1999. Gr. 4-6

In this latest installment of Yep's *Chinatown* series, 12-year-old Lily Lew, her older brother Chris, and her great-aunt Tiger Lil, a movie actress turned employment agent, solve a mystery when a prop gun is replaced by a real gun during the filming of a popular television show in Chinatown.

Yep, Laurence. *The Case of the Goblin Pearls*.

HarperCollins, 1997. Gr. 4-7

Lily's aunt, a Chinese-American movie star, seems to confuse herself with her alter ego, the action heroine Tiger Lil. When the priceless Goblin Pearls are stolen during the Chinese New Year parade, Lily and her aunt find themselves thrown into a suspenseful and possibly deadly case that also leads them into the discovery of an illegal sweatshop operation in San Francisco's Chinatown. Yep gives readers a glimpse of life in Chinatown that tourists never see, all wrapped up nicely in a mystery motif.

Yep, Laurence. *The Case of the Lion Dance*.

HarperCollins, 1998. Gr. 5-8

An extravaganza is arranged for the opening of the Wok Inn restaurant, with firecrackers, a lion dance competition, a \$2,000 donation to charity, and lots of good food. During the event however, the money is stolen, and Lily and her movie-star aunt set out to find the thief. As they search San Francisco's Chinatown for clues, readers are taken from grimy alleyways, to flashy nightclubs, following a trail of extortion notes, fake addresses, and counterfeit money.

Yep, Laurence. *Cockroach Cooties*.

Hyperion, 2000. Gr. 3-6

Set in San Francisco's present Chinatown, Laurence Yep dishes up a delightful take on brothers and their peculiarities. Teddy "didn't believe in that brotherly love stuff....Frankly, I think it's overrated. However, there was one part of brotherhood I took seriously....Nobody could do serious damage to my little brother except me." Bobby is crazy about cockroaches! They have a private war against Arnie, an immigrant kid and bully who is repeating second grade but stars in Chinese language school and likes Godzilla. Like his hero, Arnie is big and clumsy and nobody explains the rules to him. But, the brothers discover, he's not a monster. "Just another human being. Like us." It's a funny, great read-aloud.

Yep, Laurence. *The Cook's Family*.

Putnam Publishing Group, 1998. Gr. 5-8

As her parents' arguments become more frequent, Robin looks forward to visits she and her grandmother make to San Francisco's Chinatown. At a restaurant in Chinatown they visit a sad and lonely cook and reluctantly agree to pretend to be his lost family. During these visits to Cook's restaurant, Robin gets a glimpse of a new side to her grandmother, and also discovers a sense of her own Chinese heritage.

Yep, Laurence. *Dragon's Gate*. (1994 Beatty Award)

HarperCollins, 1993. Gr. 6-10

When he accidentally kills a Manchu, a Chinese boy is sent to America to join his father, an uncle, and other Chinese immigrants working to build a tunnel for the transcontinental railroad through the Sierra Nevada in 1867. 1994 ALA Notable Book for Children; 1994 Newbery Honor.

Yep, Laurence. *The Imp That Ate My Homework*.  
HarperCollins, 1998. Gr. 5-8

Yep has combined Chinese legend with modern life in San Francisco's Chinatown to create a light-hearted fantasy of adventure, charm and wit. Jim's grandfather is the meanest man in Chinatown and Jim's homework assignment is to write about him. But when an imp eats his homework, the only ally Jim can find to rid himself of the trickster is his feared Grandpop, whose wily ways match the mischievous imp trick-for-trick, evoking memories of the legendary Chinese ghostbuster, Chung Kuei.

Yep, Laurence. *The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung: A Chinese Miner*.  
Scholastic, 2000. Gr. 4-8

In 1852 a twelve-year-old boy from southern China travels to California to help his uncle mine for gold. Through cunning and perseverance, the Fox and his mining crew succeed despite prejudice and a harsh physical environment. An historical note with archival images supplements this novel rich in details of Chinese culture.

Yep, Laurence. *Later, Gator*.  
Disney Publications, 1995. Gr. 4-6

Set in San Francisco's Chinatown, Teddy gives his "perfect" brother Bobby a gag gift of a baby alligator which causes all kinds of uproar in their household. As they both grow to love the alligator, they discover themselves growing closer.

Yep, Laurence. *Ribbons*.  
Putnam, 1996. Gr. 4-7

Robin has to stop ballet lessons because her parents need the money to bring Robin's grandmother from Hong Kong to San Francisco. When her grandmother moves into her home, Robin is bitterly resentful, until she learns about her grandmother's bound feet.

Yep, Laurence. *The Star Maker*.  
Harper, 2011. Gr. 3-6

In San Francisco's 1950's China Town, Artie has a problem. He let his cousin Petey goad him into making a promise to give everyone in the family fireworks for the Chinese New Year. Now he has no idea how to keep his promise. Perhaps with a little help from his Uncle Chester he can find a way to overcome the obstacles of no money and very little time to make this New Year spectacular.

Yin. *Coolies*. Illus. by Chris Soentpiet  
Philomel Books, 2001. Gr. 1-6

Showing the contribution of Chinese laborers to the transcontinental railroad, Yin tells a story not often told in a picture book format: the journey of two brothers, refugees from southern China, who come to California. In search of work to feed their starving families back home, they encounter harsh, back-breaking working conditions. The illustrations in this book glow, using both intimacy (the boys writing in the tent by candlelight or being lowered in baskets to set the dynamite), and sweeping vistas of railroad construction to show this story of huge communal effort and sacrifices. Author's note and bibliography included. 2002 ALA Notable Book for Children.