

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

—Isaiah 41.10

**Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator.** Shelley Tanaka. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2008.

*Ever since Amelia Earhart and her plane disappeared on July 2, 1937, people have wanted to know more about this remarkable woman. This book follows the charismatic aviator from her first sight of an airplane at the age of ten to the last radio transmission she made before she vanished.*

**Around the World: Graphic Novel.** Matt Phelan. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2011.  
*Challenged with circling the world at the end of the nineteenth century, three very different adventurers—avid bicyclist Thomas Stevens, fearless reporter Nellie Bly, and retired sea captain Joshua Slocum—embark on epic journeys.*

**A Boy Named Beckoning: The True Story of Dr. Carlos Montezma, Native American Hero.** Gina Capaldi. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2008.

*This story reveals the life of a Native American boy named Wassaja, who was kidnapped from his tribe and sold as a slave.*

**The Cats in Krasinski Square.** Karen Hesse. New York: Scholastic Press, 2005.

*Two Jewish sisters, escapees from the infamous Warsaw Ghetto, devise a plan to thwart an attempt by the Gestapo to intercept food bound for starving people behind the dark wall.*

**Eleven.** Patricia Reilly Giff. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2008.

*Sam MacKenzie will turn eleven as his birthday is approaching quickly. There is something about the number eleven that mystifies him. Sam finds some papers in a box in the attic that may answer his questions, but he cannot read.*

**Freedom Train.** Evelyn Coleman. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008.

*Clyde has been selected to recite the Freedom Pledge when the train stops in Atlanta, but he has stage fright, especially because he's the favorite target of the class bully. Clyde gets a surprise when an African-American boy, William, comes to his rescue.*

**The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of how Muslims Saved Jews during the Holocaust.** Karen Gray. New York: Holiday House, 2009.

*During the Nazi occupation of Paris, no Jew was safe from arrest and deportation to a concentration camp. Few Parisians were willing to risk their own lives to help.*

**How Oliver Olson Changed the World.** Claudia Mills. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009.

*Afraid he will always be an outsider, like the ex-planet Pluto, nine-year-old Oliver finally shows his extremely overprotective parents that he is capable of doing great things without their help while his class is studying the solar system.*

**The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq.** Jeanette Winter. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, 2005.

*Alia Muhammad Baker is a librarian in Basra, Iraq. For fourteen years, her library has been a meeting place for those who love books. Until now. Now war has come and Alia fears that the library—along with the thirty thousand books inside it—will be destroyed forever.*

**Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom.** Carole Boston Weatherford. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2006.

*This book describes Tubman's spiritual journey as she hears the voice of God guiding her North to freedom on that very first trip to escape the brutal practice of slavery.*

**Music for the End of Time.** Jennifer Bryant. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2005.

*While detained in a German prison camp, a French composer is given a rare opportunity to write music again.*

**Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan.** Jeanette Winter. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2009.

*After her parents are taken away by the Taliban, young Nasreen stops speaking. But as she spends time in a secret school, she slowly breaks out of her shell. Based on a true story.*

**Nick of Time.** Ted Bell. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2008.

*Nick McIver is no ordinary boy, fighting pirates, beating Nazis at their own game, and traveling through time.*

**Night Boat to Freedom.** Margot Theis Raven. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006.

*At the request of his fellow slave Granny Judith, Christmas John risks his life to take runaways across a river from Kentucky to Ohio. Based on slave narratives recorded in the 1930s.*

**Night of the Hurricane's Fury.** Candice F. Ransom. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press, 2009.

*In 1900, while visiting his aunt in Galveston, Texas, ten-year-old Robert Pettibone is washed into swirling floodwaters when a hurricane takes the town by surprise.*

**Queen of the Falls.** Chris Van Allsburg. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2011.  
*The story of Annie Edson Taylor, who in 1901 decided to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel.*

**Saltpie: A Choctaw Journey from Darkness.** Tim Tingle. El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press, 2010.  
*Stories of the author's Choctaw Indian family, centering particularly on his blind grandmother.*

**She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman, Deaf-Blind Pioneer.** Sally Hobart Alexander. New York: Clarion Books, 2008.

*When she was just two years old, Laura Bridgman lost her sight, her hearing, and most of her senses of smell and taste.*

**Shi-shi-etko.** Nicola I. Campbell. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2005.

*Shi-shi-etko, a Native American girl, spends the last four days before she goes to a residential school learning valuable lessons from her mother, father, and grandmother, and creating precious memories of home.*

**Tuesdays at the Castle.** Jessica Day George. New York: Bloomsbury, 2011.

*Eleven-year-old Princess Celie lives with her parents, the king and queen, and her brothers and sister at Castle Glower, which adds rooms or stairways or secret passageways most every Tuesday, and when the king and queen are ambushed while travelling, it is up to Celie.*

**We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball.** Kadir Nelson. New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2008.

*The story of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920s through the decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the majors in 1947.*

**The Year of the Rat: a Novel.** Grace Lin. New York: Little, Brown, 2008.

*In the Chinese Year of the Rat, a young Taiwanese American girl faces many challenges: her best friend moves to California and a new boy comes to her school, she must find the courage to forge ahead with her dream of becoming a writer and illustrator, and she must learn to find the beauty in change.*

“For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’”

—Hebrews 13:5-6