

January 28, 2009

**Museum on Main Street**  
**JOURNEY STORIES**  
**Books for Children**

*The following information has been assembled to assist you in developing local exhibitions and public humanities programs around the themes of the Journey Stories exhibition. The information is organized according to the themes of each section of the exhibition. Work with your local library and/or bookstore in developing children's reading programs that relate to the themes of the exhibition: set aside a space in the exhibition area that can be a reading room for children and families and/or ask the local librarian to focus the story time selections to books that explore roots music.*

**ONE WAY TRIP**

Bulla, Clyde Robert. *A Lion to Guard Us*. New York, Crowell, 1981.

Three children must try to stay together and make their way to the Virginia colony in search of their father.

Carbone, Elisa. *Blood on the River, James Town 1607*. New York, Viking, 2006.

Young Samuel Collier is the apprentice of Capt. John Smith as they found Jamestown in 1607-1610. They struggle with politics, aristocratic egos, and Powhatan, the father of Pocahontas.

Cohen, Barbara. *Gooseberries to Oranges*. New York, Lothrop Lee & Shepard, 1982.

Eight-year-old Fanny loved her home and family in Russia. But when war and disease destroy her village, her father sends her to America. After a difficult trip, she eventually adjusts to her new country and new home.

Dalgliesh, Alice. *The Courage of Sarah Noble*. New York, Maxwell Macmillan International, 1991.

A little girl finds the courage to go alone with her father to build a new home in the Connecticut wilderness.

Draper, Sharon M. *Copper Sun*. New York, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006.

Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

Freedman, Russell. *Immigrant Kids*. New York, Dutton, 1980.

Text and contemporary photographs chronicle the life of immigrant children at home, school, work, and play during the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Haskins, James and Kathleen Benson. *Building a New Land: African Americans in Colonial America*. New York, Amistad, 2005.

Describes how slavery evolved in the early United States from occasional to economic imperative, and eroded the rights of African Americans to nothing.

Levinson, Riki, *Watch the Stars Come Out*. New York, Puffin Unicorn, 1995.  
A grandmother tells her granddaughter about her mama's journey to America by boat, years ago.

Moss, Marissa. *Hannah's Journal: The Story of an Immigrant Girl*. New York, Silver Whistle/Harcourt, 2002.  
Grade 3-5. Hannah, 10, is a Russian Jew who leaves home in Lithuania for America with her 14-year-old cousin Esther in 1901. Moss is the author of several other titles in the Young American Voices series (see *Rachel's Journal: The Story of a Pioneer Girl* below). She skillfully weaves personal tales with real historical information.

Sandin, Joan. *The Long Way to a New Land*. New York, Harper & Row, 1981.  
Carl Erik journeys with his family from Sweden to America during the famine of 1868.

### **PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES**

Erickson, Paul. *Daily Life in a Covered Wagon*. New York, Puffin Books/Penguin, 1997.  
In 1853, the Larkin family loaded their covered wagon and headed west on the Oregon trail in search of a new life. How did they do it? What did they eat? How did they dress? How did they survive sickness or attacks from cattle thieves? Drawing on diaries and letters, and illustrated with photos of actual objects from the past, *Daily Life in a Covered Wagon* explores what life was really like on the wagon train. Appropriate for ages 9-12.

Moss, Marissa. *Rachel's Journal: The Story of a Pioneer Girl*. New York, Silver Whistle/Harcourt, 2001.  
The story of a spirited 10-year-old pioneer girl who must leave her childhood home in Illinois and travel by covered wagon to the wilds of California. Written in journal style; solidly researched. Appropriate for ages 9-12.

Perry, Ann. *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad*. New York, Amistad, 1995.  
A classic biography of courageous woman who guided over 300 slaves to freedom. Grades 9-12.

Stroud, Bettye. *The Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map to Freedom*. Somerville, MA, Candlewick Press, 2007.  
An exciting story for elementary students about a girl and her father who escape slavery with help from the coded symbols on a quilt.

Walter, Mildred Pitts. *Alec's Primer*. Lebanon, N.H, University Press of New England, 2004.  
A young slave's journey to freedom begins when a plantation owner's granddaughter teaches him how to read. Based on the childhood of Alec Turner (1845-1923) who escaped from slavery by joining the Union Army during the Civil War.

### **ACROSS THE GREAT 'DESERT' TO THE WEST**

Blumberg, Rhoda, *Incredible Journey of Lewis and Clark*. New York, William Morrow Co., 1987.

Describes the expedition led by Lewis and Clark to explore the unknown western regions of America at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Greenwood, Barbara, *A Pioneer Sampler: The Daily Life of a Pioneer Family in 1840*. New York, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1995.

A comprehensive and illuminating survey of nearly every aspect of a single pioneer family – includes topics from milling to schooling to sheering to children's games.

Harness, Cheryl. *The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal*. New York, Aladdin Paperbacks, 1995.

DeWitt Clinton, a young politician, dreams of building a canal connecting the Hudson River with Great Lakes even though no one believes this can be done.

Kendall, Martha. *The Erie Canal*. Washington, D.C., National Geographic Children's Books, 2008.

Personal anecdotes and an engaging narrative describe life on the Erie Canal in colorful detail, making the story vividly real for children ages 9-12. Black-and-white archival images and period engravings detail the construction, the challenges, and the excitement surrounding the progress of this national landmark. Detailed maps show the canal in its historic context and in modern times, highlighting the region's modern transport infrastructure. Extensive back matter, including a chronology and a cast of characters, provides an excellent source for report writers.

O'Dell, Scott. *Sing Down the Moon*. New York, Dell Laurel-Leaf/Random House, 1970. Bright Morning, a fourteen-year-old Navajo girl, recounts the events of 1864 when her tribe was forced to march to Fort Sumner as prisoners of the white soldiers.

Turner, Ann. *Mississippi Mud: Three Prairie Journals*, New York, Harper-Collins, 1997. Poems reflecting the points of view of three pioneer children describe their family's journey from Kentucky to Oregon.

### **RAILROADS SPAN THE NATION**

Blumberg, Rhoda. *Full Steam Ahead: The Race to Build a Transcontinental Railroad*. Washington, DC, National Geographic Society, 1996.

Describes how the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Railroads and the many peoples, Native Americans, Irish and Chinese immigrants, and Anglo industrialists combined to create the Transcontinental Railroad through death and corruption.

Durbin, William. *The Journal Of Sean Sullivan: A Transcontinental Railroad Worker*. New York, Scholastic, 1999.

In 1867, fifteen-year-old Sean experiences both hardships and rewards when he joins his father in working on the building of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Lee, Milly. *Landed*. New York, Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006.

Sun, a 12-year-old Chinese boy, travels with his father to San Francisco. He goes to Angel Island and is tested to make sure he is his father's son, not a paper son.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. *Stop the Train!* Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2001.  
Despite the opposition of the owner of the Red Rock Runner railroad in 1893, the new settlers of Florence, Oklahoma, are determined to build a real town.

Meltzer, Milton. *Hear That Train Whistle Blow! How the Railroad Changed the World.* New York, Random House, 2004.

Presents the many ways in which the railroad affected almost every aspect of modern civilization.

Yep, Laurence. *Dragon's Gate.* New York, HarperCollins, 1993.

When he accidentally kills a Manchu, a fifteen-year-old Chinese boy is sent to America to join his father, an uncle, and other Chinese working to build a tunnel for the Transcontinental Railroad through the Sierra Nevada mountains in 1867.

Yin, Chris K. *Coolies.* New York, Philomel Books, 2001.

A young boy hears the story of his great-great-great-grandfather and his brother (Shek and Wong) who came to the United States to make a better life for themselves helping to build the Transcontinental Railroad.

### **ACCELERATED MOBILITY**

Cooper, Michael L. *Dust to Eat : Drought and Depression in the 1930s.* New York, Clarion Books, 2004.

A look at the drought in the US great plains, the migration it prompted, during the economic depression of the 1930s.

Freedman, Russell. *Freedom Walkers : The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.* New York, Holiday House, 2006.

Covers the events surrounding and including the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the end of segregation on buses.

Lawrence, Jacob. *The Great Migration: An American Story.* New York, Harper Collins, 1993.

A series of paintings chronicle the journey of African-Americans who, like the artist's family, left the rural South in the early twentieth century to find a better life in the industrial North.

McKissack, Patricia C. and Fredrick L. McKissack, Jr. *A Long Hard Journey: The Story of the Pullman Porter.* New York, Walker, 1989.

A chronicle of the first black-controlled union, made up of Pullman porters, who after years of unfair labor practices staged a battle against a corporate giant resulting in a "David and Goliath" ending

Tunnell, Michael O.; Holiday, George W. *The Children of Topaz: The Story of a Japanese-American Internment Camp.* New York, Holiday House, 1996.

The diary of a third-grade class of Japanese-American children being held with their families in an internment camp during World War II.

### **OUR EXPANDED WORLD**

Drummond, Allan. *Liberty!* New York, Farras, Straus, and Giroux, 2006.  
A beautifully illustrated children's book highlighting the origins of the Statue of Liberty and how it came to be America's ultimate journey story.

Peterson, Jeanne Whitehouse. *Don't Forget Winona.* New York, HarperCollins, 2004.  
A young girl describes her family's departure from the dust bowl of Oklahoma in the late 1930s. Her little sister Winona shouts out, "Don't forget me!" and it becomes the child's signature line; includes a map of the journey and notes about the road's historical significance.

Quiri, Patricia Ryon. *The Statue of Liberty.* New York, Children's Press/Scholastic, 1998.  
From the "True Book" Series, this nonfiction book for young readers details the story of the Statue of Liberty, America's welcome to immigrants.

Raymer, Dottie. *Molly's Route 66 Adventure.* New York, American Girls Publisher, 2002.  
From the popular American Girls Series, *Molly's Route 66 Adventure* takes readers for an eight-state ride, from Illinois to California, along the Main Street of America.