

A Great and Terrible Beauty by Libba Bray

YA BrayA

It's 1895, and after the suicide of her mother, 16-year-old Gemma Doyle is shipped off from the life she knows in India to Spence, a proper boarding school in England. Lonely, guilt-ridden, and prone to visions of the future that have an uncomfortable habit of coming true, Gemma's reception there is a chilly one. To make things worse, she's been followed by a mysterious young Indian man, a man sent to watch her. But why? What is her destiny? And what will her entanglement with Spence's most powerful girls—and their foray into the spiritual world—lead to?

The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe

YA IturA

Fourteen-year-old Dita is one of the many imprisoned by the Nazis at Auschwitz. Taken, along with her mother and father, from the Terezín ghetto in Prague, Dita is adjusting to the constant terror that is life in the camp. When Jewish leader Freddy Hirsch asks Dita to take charge of the eight precious volumes the prisoners have managed to sneak past the guards, she agrees. And so Dita becomes the librarian of Auschwitz.

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

YA SeperR

Winter 1945. WWII. Four refugees. Four stories. Each one born of a different homeland; each one hunted, and haunted, by tragedy, lies, and war. As thousands desperately flock to the coast in the midst of a Soviet advance, four paths converge.

Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse

YA HessM

In 1943 Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, teenage Hanneke--a 'finder' of black market goods--is tasked with finding a Jewish girl a customer had been hiding, who has seemingly vanished into thin air, and is pulled into a web of resistance activities and secrets as she attempts to solve the mystery and save the missing girl.

A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi

YA MafiT

A year after 9/11, Muslim teenager Shirin has completely withdrawn from social life, until she meets Ocean James in her biology class and is tempted to actually let her guard down.

Loving vs. Virginia by Patricia Hruby Powell

YA PoweP

Written in blank verse, the story of Mildred Loving, an African American girl, and Richard Loving, a Caucasian boy, who challenge the Virginia law forbidding interracial marriages in the 1950s.



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daniel.tackett@vestavialibrary.org

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HISTORICAL FICTION

HISTORICAL FICTION

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

FLYGIRL

SUGGESTED READING

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak YA Zusam

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson YA AndeL (Reading List)

The story of a 13-year-old African-American girl who is sold to a cruel, loyalist family living in New York City at the start of the Revolutionary War. Asked to spy on her owners for the Patriot cause, she is reluctant, until she realizes her loyalty lies with the side that can provide her with freedom.

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson YA AndeL (Reading List)

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys YA SepeR

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life. Vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers, she buries her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil.

A Spy in the House by Y.S Lee YA LeeY

Rescued from the gallows in 1850s London, 17-year-old orphan and thief Mary Quinn is offered a place at Miss Scrimshaw's Academy for Girls, where she is trained to be part of an all-female investigative unit called the Agency in order to infiltrate a rich merchant's home in hopes of tracing his missing cargo ships. **First in a series.**

The Passion of Dolssa by Julie Berry YA BerrJ

In mid-thirteenth century Provence, Dolssade Stigata is a fervently religious girl who feels the call to preach, condemned by the Inquisition as an "unnatural woman," and hunted by the Dominican Friar Lucien who fears a resurgence of the Albigensian heresy; Botille is a matchmaker trying to protect her sisters from being branded as gypsies or witches--but when she finds the hunted Dolssa dying on a hillside, she feels compelled to protect her, a decision that may cost her everything.

The Hired Girl by Laura Amy Schlitz YA Schill

Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs, just like the heroines in her beloved novels, yearns for real life and true love. But what hope is there for adventure, beauty, or art on a hardscrabble farm in Pennsylvania where the work never ends?

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein YA WeinE

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne YA BoynJ (Reading List)

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi YA Avi (Reading List)

As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd YA KiddS

Set in South Carolina in 1964, The Secret Life of Bees tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free.

The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen YA YoJ

Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Etiquette and Espionage by Gail Carriger YA CarrG

In an alternate England of 1851, spirited fourteen-year-old Sophronia is enrolled in a finishing school where, she is surprised to learn, lessons include not only the fine arts of dance, dress, and etiquette, but also diversion, deceit, and espionage.

Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith YA SmitsS

During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis YA CurtC (Reading List)

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti YA BartS (Reading List)

In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hübener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

Woods Runner by Gary Paulsen YA PaulG

From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers and Indians who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community. Includes historical notes.

Rose Under Fire by Elizabeth Wein YA WeinE

When young American pilot Rose Justice is captured by Nazis and sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious women's concentration camp, she finds hope in the impossible through the loyalty, bravery, and friendship of her fellow prisoners.

Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli YA Spin

He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself and the other orphans. He's a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi some day, with tall shiny jackboots and a gleaming Eagle hat of his own. Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt YA SchmG

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom, where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.