



Enriching Literature for Volume III

It is my recommendation that you read one or two outside books per quarter (ie. biographies, classics, historical fiction, or primary sources) to enrich your study of world history. While the *Companion Guide* offers you hundreds of titles for all ages, I've narrowed down those choices for middle and older self-paced students to give you 12 titles to choose from for each quarter. (You're welcome!) Lesson numbers are added to show you where the titles best fit, but don't worry about lining up lessons and literature too closely because we all read at different rates. Just enjoy reading when you can!

Need a short cut? I put in bold the books I've enjoyed the most for historical significance, rich content, or pure pleasure.

QUARTER 1

- *Rosa of Linden Castle* by Christoph von Schmid. Originally published in 1845, this Christian novel is now in reprint. Rosa's love for her imprisoned father proves that God can turn evil to good. Lamplighter Publishing (ISBN 978-1584740254); 2001; 163 pp. (Lesson 1)
- ***The Player King* by Avi. This unusual story is so entertaining that you'd think it was all fiction. But it's not! The characters are based on the true story of a young boy swept up in a plot to overthrow the King of England. This is a great little story told by Avi, the author of *Crispin* (a Read-Aloud Favorite from Volume II). We named this a Read-Aloud Favorite for Volume III. Atheneum / Richard Jackson Books (ISBN 978-1481437684); 2017; 208 pp. (Lesson 1)**
- *Richard III* and *Henry VI*, historical plays by William Shakespeare, are both relevant to the Wars of the Roses. I don't have any specific recommendations, but annotated versions may prove helpful when studying Shakespeare. (Lesson 1)
- ***My Escape from the Auto de Fé* by Don Fernando de la Mina, retold by Pastor William Timms. This true story of a rich Spaniard escaping the Spanish Inquisition will bring life to the harrowing times of medieval and Renaissance Spain. A.B. Publishing (ISBN 978-1597650090); 2005; 160 pp. (Lesson 3)**
- *The World in 1492* by Jean Fritz. For historical context of the voyages of Columbus, Jean Fritz takes her young readers around the world to see 1492 from numerous angles. Bantam Doubleday (978-0440849483); 1992; 168 pp. (Lesson 7)
- ***The Journal of Christopher Columbus: His Own Account of the Extraordinary Voyage to Discover the New World*, translated by Cecil Jane. For students serious about**

understanding history, this journal provides insights into the thinking of Columbus that can't be found elsewhere! Wentworth Press (ISBN 978-0526749614); 2019; 334 pp. (Lesson 7)

- *African Icons: Ten People Who Shaped History* by Tracey Baptiste. This well-researched book, with maps and graphics, shines light on powerful men and women of the African continent who influenced history. Pertinent to this lesson, this book includes Mansa Musa. Algonquin Young Readers (ISBN 978-1616209001); 2021; 176 pp. (Lesson 9)
- *In Praise of Folly* by Desiderius Erasmus. This witty, influential work by one of the greatest scholars of the Renaissance satirizes the shortcomings of the upper classes and religious institutions. Required reading for humanities classes, this literary gem is ripe with vignettes and caricatures—with Folly, a metaphor for stupidity, as the centerpiece. Unabridged republication of the John Wilson translation. Dover Publications (ISBN 978-0486426891); 2003; 80 pp. (Lesson 15)
- *The Prince* by Niccolò Machiavelli. To understand the mindset of totalitarianism, look no further than *The Prince*—quite possibly a satire for its outrageous approach to governance. Dover Publications (ISBN 978-0486272740); 2016; 80 pp. (Lesson 16)
- *The Apprentice* by Pilar Molina Llorente. This page-turning historical adventure tells the story of a 13-year-old boy raised by tailors who aspires to be a painter during the Renaissance. A discovery adds to the suspense and provides a backdrop to the times and customs of the era. Square Fish (ISBN 978-0374404321); 1994; 112 pp. (Lesson 17)
- *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* by Roland H. Bainton. This is a readable yet scholarly biography of Martin Luther that is highly praised and includes many illustrations from Luther's time. Plume (ISBN 978-0452011465); 1995; 336 pp. (Lesson 18)
- *Kitty, My Rib* by E. Jane Mall. This is the endearing story of Katharine Luther, the devoted wife of Martin Luther, and how she handled her famous husband, their finances, and their family. Concordia Publishing House (ISBN 978-0570031130); 1959; 182 pp (Lesson 21)

QUARTER 2

- *Utopia* by Sir Thomas More. This classic is readily available from numerous publishers. With most copies at 84 pages in length, it's not too daunting of a satire for Middle and Older Students and a good introduction to reading original works. (Lesson 27)
- *A Man for All Seasons*, a play by Robert Bolt. Reading a play is different from reading a book—and offers a tremendous opportunity for a family read-aloud, co-op, or school performance. *A Man for All Seasons* tells the story of Thomas More and his courage to stand for his convictions. Vintage (ISBN 978-0679728221); 1990; 163 pp. (Lesson 27)
- *The River of Grace: The Story of John Calvin* by Joyce McPherson. This pleasant biography goes back to Calvin's boyhood and offers a warm, thorough look at the Protestant leader.

Greenleaf Press (ISBN 978-1882514540); 1999; 180 pp. (Lesson 30)

- *Children of the Longhouse* by Joseph Bruchac. This Native American author brings to life young Ohkwa'ri, a Mohawk boy, to reveal the life and times of Native Americans before the arrival of Europeans. This pleasant read offers an important cultural perspective of North America. Puffin Books (ISBN 978-0140385045); 1998; 150 pp. (Lesson 33)
- *The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt by Day* by Scott O'Dell. This historical fiction revolves around William Tyndale's plan to put the English Bible into the hands of the common people. Told through the experience of a 16-year-old sailor, Tom Barton, this book sheds light on the faith and courage of Bible smugglers. JourneyForth (ISBN 978-0890843680); 2007; 182 pp. (Lesson 34)
- *Beyond the Sacred Page* by Jack Cavanaugh. This grand work of historical fiction is dedicated to a martyr, Joan Bocher, who was burned at the stake for heresy during the reign of Henry VIII for distributing English translations of the Bible to ladies at court. In *Beyond the Sacred Page*, readers experience the courts of England where young Meg is torn between love, politics, faith, and forbidden scripture. OakTara (ISBN 978-1602900943); 2014; 348 pp. (Lesson 34)
- *A Voice in the Wilderness: The Story of Bartolomé de Las Casas* by Gerald Kinneavy. This novel, narrated by the author, tells the true and tragic tale of Bartolomé de Las Casas, who spent a lifetime protecting the indigenous of the New World. Outskirts Press (ISBN 978-1432708252); 2007; 268 pp. (Lesson 36)
- ***Lady Jane Grey—Nine Day Queen of England* by Faith Cook. A former online student of mine sent me this book as a gift and I'm so glad she did! I could hardly put it down. Faith Cook did a marvelous job explaining the politics of the time period (leading up to the tragedy of the young queen) and the personality of the young heroine (who held fast to her faith.)** Evangelical Press (ISBN 978-0852346136); 2004; 249 pp. (Lesson 37)
- *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* by John Foxe. This classic (sometimes referred to as *Foxe's Christian Martyrs of the World*) is not an easy read. However, it is valuable, timeless, and true. It was written in 1563 by an eyewitness of Christian persecution under Bloody Mary. Starting with the stoning of Stephen, John Foxe chronicles the lives of dozens of Christian martyrs and heroes of the faith. Many families add this treasury to their home libraries. Bridge-Logos, Inc. (ISBN 978-0882708751); 2001; 482 pp. (Lesson 37)
- *Queen Elizabeth I, a Biography* by J. E. Neale. Originally published in 1934, this is considered by some the definitive biography of Elizabeth I. With readable text and an engaging story line, it won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Biography. Academy Chicago Publishers (ISBN 978-0897333627); 2005; 446 pp. (Lesson 38)
- *The Wild Queen: The Days and Nights of Mary, Queen of Scots (Young Royals)* by Carolyn Meyer. Blending fact and fiction, Carolyn Meyer brings the tragic story of Mary, Queen of Scots to a better level of understanding by helping readers step into her thinking. Clarion Books

(ISBN 978-0544022195); 2013; 432 pp. (Lesson 40)

- *Wings like a Dove: The Courage of Queen Jeanne d'Albret* (Chosen Daughters) by Christine Farenhorst. This beautiful blend of fact (the persecution of Huguenots) and fiction (Jeanne's younger years) will help students better know and appreciate the real Jeanne d'Albret and her steadfast contribution to the faith of the Huguenots. P&R Publishing (ISBN 978-0875526423); 2006; 208 pp. (Lesson 41)

QUARTER 3

- *Taking Back Astronomy: The Heavens Declare Creation* by Jason Lisle. Consider the Creator of the night sky and the universe through Jason Lisle, a renowned astrophysicist and Young Earth Creation scientist. With two levels of text (basic and advanced), this beautifully illustrated book offers a thought-provoking start to astronomy for both Middle and Older students. Master Books (ISBN 978-0890514719); 2006; 128 pp. (Lesson 43)
- *The Sea-Dragon: Journals of Francis Drake's Voyage around the World* by George Sanderlin. This compilation of primary sources is more than a record of weather conditions and wildlife encountered by Drake. His journal reads a bit like an adventure novel that retraces his journeys on the sea. Harper and Row (ISBN 978-0060251857); 1969; 243 pp. (Lesson 44)
- *Lysbeth: A Tale of the Dutch* by H. Rider Haggard. Originally published in 1901, this love story and adventure novel follows a Dutch woman caught up in the terror of the Spanish Inquisition of the 1500s. Christian Liberty Press (ISBN 978-1930367968); 2007; 460 pp. (Lesson 45)
- *Sir Walter Raleigh* by Henry David Thoreau, edited by Henry A. Metcalf. Thoreau was fascinated by Raleigh's character and his influence on American history. This reproduction was created to protect, preserve, and promote fine world literature. Kessinger Publishing (ISBN 978-0548461075); 2007; 120 pp. (Lesson 46)
- ***I, Juan de Pareja* by Elizabeth Borton de Treviño. This Newbery Medal winner follows the true life of Spanish artist Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez from the perspective of a slave named Juan who is the artist's assistant. Well-written and moving! Square Fish (ISBN 978-0312380052); 2008; 192 pp. (Lesson 47)**
- *The Shakespeare Stealer Series* by Gary Blackwood. This award-winning trilogy of historical fiction takes place in the Globe Theatre when orphaned Widge becomes an actor. Three books in one set include *The Shakespeare Stealer*, *Shakespeare's Scribe*, and *Shakespeare's Spy*. One reviewer claims that this series sparked her nonreading student to become a reader! Dutton Children's Books (ISBN 978-0525473206); 2004. Total series page count is 784. (Lesson 49)
- *Brightest Heaven of Invention: A Christian Guide to Six Shakespeare Plays* by Peter J. Leithart. If you're teaching a class on Shakespeare to Christian students, this highly acclaimed resource is for you. Peter J. Leithart skillfully analyzes the themes of judgment and redemption in six works of Shakespeare. Canon Press (ISBN 978-1885767233); 1996; 288 pp. (Lesson 49)

- *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes, translated by Edith Grossman. This is a modern, readable translation of one of the world's most beloved tales, though there are many others that are also excellent and usable. Ecco (ISBN 978-0060934347); 2005; 992 pp. (Lesson 52)
- *The World of Captain John Smith* by Genevieve Foster. In her usual storytelling fashion, Genevieve Foster surveys the world (via Mary, Queen of Scots; Shakespeare; the Spanish Armada; etc.) during the time of Captain John Smith, creating a picture of global events to help students understand the atmosphere of the time. Beautiful Feet Books (ISBN 978-1893103009); 1999; 406 pp. (Lesson 54)
- *Pocahontas* by Joseph Bruchac. Well written and researched by a Native American, this is a bit difficult to read but provides an informative account of the life of Pocahontas. Bruchac makes a point of telling the true story and dispelling the myths that have been perpetuated in our pop culture. HMH Books for Young Readers (ISBN 978-0152054656); 2005; 173 pp. (Lesson 57)
- *Good Newes from New England* by Edward Winslow. This is one of America's earliest books, written by Edward Winslow, who sailed on the *Mayflower*. Winslow documented life at Plymouth, negotiated with Native Americans, and served as an agent for the Pilgrims in England. This scholarly edition is chock-full of additional notes for mature students. University of Massachusetts Press (ISBN 978-1625340832); 2014; 190 pp. (Lesson 59)
- *Puritan Dilemma: The Story of John Winthrop* by Edmund S. Morgan. This author goes beyond the biography of John Winthrop and enters the mind and spirit behind the quest of the Puritans to live righteously in an untamed land. Pearson (ISBN 978-0321478061); 2006; 220 pp. (Lesson 62)

QUARTER 4

- *Blood Secret* by Kathryn Lasky. This novel follows one Jewish family through several generations, from persecution during the Inquisition to the present day in southwest America. This is a poignant, well-written, and fascinating account of one segment of the Jewish population. Because of difficult themes, it not recommended for younger readers. HarperTeen (ISBN 978-0060000639); 2006; 304 pp. (Lesson 64)
- *John Comenius: The Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart* (The Classics of Western Spirituality) by John Comenius, translated by Howard Louthan. This is Comenius's famous allegory, which has been compared to *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Paulist Press (ISBN 978-0809137398); 1997; 272 pp. (Lesson 67)
- *Simon* by Rosemary Sutcliff. Master storyteller Rosemary Sutcliff takes readers to the English Civil Wars, where Simon and his best friend find themselves on opposite sides of the conflict. This historical fiction provides historically accurate context for an otherwise confusing time period. The book offers excellent character development and flow of the story. Oxford University Press (ISBN 978-0192714428); 1980; 268 pp. (Lesson 68)
- *Pensées* by Blaise Pascal. *Pensées* (meaning "thoughts") is a collection of Pascal's thoughts and philosophies, which were not compiled until after his early death. Though

not a finished work, a novel, or a storybook, it is one of my all-time favorite books on Christian thought. (I'd put it on my personal top ten list!) Penguin Classics (ISBN 978-0140446456); 1995; 368. (Lesson 71)

- *Duncan's War* (Crown and Covenant #1) by Douglas Bond. This exciting historical fiction follows young Duncan M'Kethe through the tragedy and triumph of the Scottish Covenanters. Challenged at every turn, Duncan clings to his faith in Christ while on a rescue mission to save his own father. This story is one of three set in seventeenth-century Scotland (See also *King's Arrow* and *Rebel's Keep*.) For depth and quality, it may appeal to multiple ages. P & R Publishing (ISBN 978-0875527420); 2002; 288 pp. (Lesson 73)
- *Martyrland: A Tale of Persecution from the Days of the Scottish Covenanters* by Robert Simpson. This historical fiction puts the reader in the lives of the Scottish Covenanters through story and dialogue. Solid Ground Christian Books (ISBN 978-1599250748); 2006; 280 pp. (Lesson 73)
- *Cast Off: The Strange Adventures of Petra de Winter and Bram Broen* by Eve Yohalem. Though not a story about China, this exciting historical fiction takes place in 1663 and thus belongs near this lesson. Through 12-year-old Petra (a Dutch girl) and her friend Bram (a Dutch/Japanese boy), readers will find themselves on the high sea aboard a Dutch merchant ship dodging pirates, mutiny, and disease. Dial Books (ISBN 978-0525428565); 2015; 320 pp. (Near Lesson 74)
- *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. Numerous versions of this classic allegory of the Christian faith are available for various age groups. (Lesson 76)
- ***Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners* by John Bunyan. John Bunyan's conversion and Christian walk weren't easy. This book describes his real-life journey from notorious rebel to compelling witness for Christ. (I'm a glutton for autobiographies, so I enjoyed this more than *Pilgrim's Progress*.) Mint Editions (ISBN 978-1513220345); 2020; 138 pp. (Lesson 76)**
- *Paradise Lost* by John Milton. Numerous versions exist of this epic poem depicting heaven and hell. Book collectors may enjoy versions containing wood engraving illustrations by Gustave Doré, a renowned French artist of the 1800s. (*Note:* Contains brief nudity of Adam and Eve.) (Lesson 76)
- *Slave Ships and Slaving* by George Francis Dow. This staggering collection of firsthand accounts of the slave trade from ship captains, doctors, and more was compiled as testimonial material for a parliamentary investigation of the cruel practice of slavery (before it was outlawed.) With over 50 period engravings and illustrations, this book tells the true story of the barbaric slave trade without political spin. (Not for the faint of heart.) Dover Publications (ISBN 978-0486421117); 2011; 448 pp. (Lesson 78)
- *The Second Treatise of Government* by John Locke. Numerous editions exist of this classic work by Locke that outlines political theory, the law of nature, and the legitimate role of

government. Some consider this a must-read for American students. If you need a study guide, see below:

Understanding John Locke: The Smart Student's Guide to Locke's Second Treatise of Government by Laurence Houlgate. In a clear and concise manner, the author walks students through the meaning and context of John Locke's famous work. Independently Published (ISBN 978-1980594277); 2018; 159 pp. (Lesson 80)