



Enriching Literature for Volume IV

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 10-15 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

- ***Amos Fortune, Free Man* by Elizabeth Yates. For good reason, this is the 1951 Newbery Medal Winner. Spanning the true life of Amos Fortune (1710-1801), this story follows a young man born the son of an African king who is captured by slave traders, sold into the colonies, and earns his freedom. Heartwarming and true, we named it a Read-Aloud Favorite! Puffin (ISBN 978-0140341584); 1989; 192 pp. (Lesson 2)**
- *Guns of Thunder* by Douglas Bond. Faith & Freedom Trilogy I. This is a teen novel of America in the 1740s. P and R Publishing (ISBN 978-1596380134); 2007; 261 pp. (Lesson 3)
- *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper. This is an American classic set in upstate New York during the French and Indian War. It does contain some graphic war descriptions. Multiple editions, some free. (Lesson 7)
- *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes. This Newberry Award Winner (1944) is a classic American Revolution children's novel about a silversmith apprentice whose life is changed by an accident. Though I chose it as a "Read-Aloud Favorite" for Middle Students, I'm listing it here for All Students since multiple ages may enjoy this one! Multiple editions. Also a movie. (Lesson 9)
- ***Common Sense* by Thomas Paine. Primary source. Multiple editions, some free. (Lesson 9)**
- *Bunker Hill* by Janet Tinney. This is the life of Dr. Joseph Warren, from his time at Harvard through his death at the Battle of Bunker Hill. American Patriots Series. Cumberland House Publishing (ISBN 978-1581820621); 2000; 408 pp. (Lesson 9)

- *The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, and Treachery* by Steve Sheinkin. This biography reads like an adventure novel to shine light on the good and the bad of one of America's most famous traitors. Square Fish (ISBN 978-1250024602); 2013; 368 pp. (Lesson 10)
- ***In Search of Honor* by Donnalynn Hess. Similar in theme to *Les Misérables*, this terrific tale follows one young man's quest for redemption upon surviving an escape from the Bastille during the French Revolution. For its rich vocabulary and moving plot, we named this one a Read-Aloud Favorite! JourneyForth Books (ISBN 978-0890845950); 1992; 168 pp. (Lesson 12)**
- *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens. For those ready to deep dive into Charles Dickens, this classic story of love, danger, and heroism takes place before and during the French Revolution. Multiple editions. (Lesson 12)
- *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery* by Eric Metaxas. This is an outstanding book about an outstanding man that ought not be forgotten in history! HarperOne (ISBN 978-0061173882); 2007; 320 pp. (Lesson 15)
- *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas. This is a famous tale that opens in 1815 France during the reign of Napoleon and tells the story of wrongly imprisoned Edmond Dantes. Multiple editions. (Lesson 19)

QUARTER 2

- *Voices from the Trail of Tears* (Real Voices, Real History Series) by Vicki Rozema. This is a historical collection of first-person accounts from the Trail of Tears drawn from journals, letters, and physician's notes. John F. Blair Pub (ISBN 978-0895872715); 2003; 176 pp. (Lesson 23)
- ***The Autobiography of George Muller* by George Muller. Found here is Muller's life story, written in his own words. Primary source. Multiple editions. (Lesson 24)**
- *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx. Primary source. Multiple editions. (Lesson 27)
- *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Written at the brink of the Civil War, this epic book helped turn the tide of American thought toward slavery. Multiple editions. (Lesson 28)
- ***Narrative of Sojourner Truth* by Sojourner Truth. This book contains the memoirs of an incredible woman. Originally published in 1850. Primary source. Multiple editions. (Lesson 28)**
- ***My Bondage and My Freedom* by Frederick Douglass. This is the second autobiography by Frederick Douglass and one of the author's favorites. For length and depth, it may be best for the older student. Primary source. Multiple editions. (Lesson 28)**

- ***Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret* by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor. Written by the son and daughter-in-law of Hudson Taylor, this classic story explores a life totally dependent on God. (An author favorite for students and adults!) Moody Publishers (ISBN 978-0883683873); 2011; 400 pp. (Lesson 29)**
- *An Easy-to-Understand Guide for Defeating Darwinism by Opening Minds* by Phillip E. Johnson. Creationists like this book; Darwinists don't. Consider it a tool for the toolbox that some will use, and others won't. InterVarsity Press (ISBN 978-0830813605); 1997; 131 pp. (Lesson 32)
- *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt. This is a wonderful historical novel that gives readers a sense of how the Civil War affected families. Though listed as a Read-Aloud Favorite for Middle Students, All Students may enjoy this Newbery Honor winner. Berkley (ISBN 978-0425182789); 2002; 224 pp. (Lesson 35)
- *Gods and Generals* by Jeff Shaara. Written as a prequel to his father's famed novel, *The Killer Angels*, this title focuses on Generals Lee, Hancock, Jackson, and Chamberlain as the battle of Gettysburg approaches. Ballentine Books (Media tie-in edition: ISBN 978-0345422477); 1998; 512 pp. (Also available as a movie.) (Lesson 36)
- ***Heart of a Samurai* by Margi Preus. This true story recounts a shipwrecked Japanese boy who was rescued by an American fishing vessel. Set just before Emperor Meiji's reign, this book gives readers a picture of mid-nineteenth-century Japanese life and the cultural clash and distrust between Japan and America at that time. (Though listed a Read-Aloud Favorite for Middle Students, All Students may enjoy this one.) Harry N. Abrams (ISBN 978-0810989818); 2010; 320 pp (Lesson 39)**
- *Alice Paul and the American Suffrage Campaign* by Katherine H. Adams and Michael L. Keene. This academic read tells the incredible story of the first person to picket the White House, to burn a president in effigy, and to lead a successful non-violent campaign. University of Illinois Press (ISBN 978-0252074714); 2007; 296 pp. (Lesson 40)
- ***Living in Two Worlds: The American Indian Experience* by Charles Alexander Eastman. Highly recommended by the author. Primary source. Multiple editions. (Lesson 42)**

QUARTER 3

- ***The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller. This autobiography is impressive on so many levels, but I most recommend it to my readers because of the Charlotte Mason style of education that Helen received. Under the superb teaching of Anne Sullivan, Helen was an enthusiastic learner despite her many challenges. For drawing readers into Helen's world, we named this a Read-Aloud Favorite! Primary source. Multiple editions. (Lesson 44)**
- *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque. This is a classic! This story follows a young German soldier from a romantic view of war to the perils of the Western Front in 1916. (Contains graphic war violence.) Multiple editions. (Lesson 47)

- ***Forgotten Fire* by Adam Bagdasarian. Based on real life events, this is a rare find depicting the atrocities of the Armenian Genocide during World War I. Centered on the horrifying experience of a 12-year-old boy, this is above all a story of survival. The writing style of the author is superb, but you may want tissues nearby for this one! Laurel-Leaf (ISBN 978-0440229179); 2002; 304 pp. (Lesson 47)**
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Published during the reign of Stalin, this classic remains a strong and timely reminder of what happens when freedom is slowly eroded. Ironically, Orwell was a self-proclaimed democratic socialist, but saw the flaws in the Soviet Union system. Multiple editions. (Lesson 52)
- *Execution by Hunger: The Hidden Holocaust* by Miron Dolot. Contained here are eyewitness accounts of forced collectivization in the Soviet Union and the famine that followed. Not an easy read, but an important one! W. W. Norton & Company (ISBN 978-0393304169); 1987; 248 pp. (Lesson 52)
- *Mein Kampf* by Adolf Hitler. This is Hitler's autobiography that contains his rambling ideology. Clearly, this should only be read by mature students who want perspective on Hitler's thinking— which shaped history! Primary source. Multiple editions. (Lesson 55)
- *Harvest of Despair: Life and Death in Ukraine under Nazi Rule* by Karel C. Berkhoff. This scholarly work addresses the Nazi occupation of Ukraine—and the brutal impact it had on millions. Belknap Press (ISBN 978-0674027183); 2008; 480 pp. (Lesson 56)
- *Shoah* by Cantor Leo Fettman. This is the autobiography of an Auschwitz survivor who endured the atrocities of Dr. Josef Mengele! Six Points Press (ISBN 978-1589852587); 1999; 201 pp. (Lesson 56)
- ***Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. This world-renowned teenager's diary was written by a Jewish girl who did *not* survive the Holocaust! Older editions will be the most discreet. Primary Source. Multiple editions. (Lesson 57)**
- ***Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Eric Metaxas. This is an excellent read and an outstanding biography. Long, but worth it! Thomas Nelson (ISBN 978-1595552464); 2011; 624 pp. (Lesson 57)**
- ***The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom. This is Corrie ten Boom's biography. Primary source. Chosen Books (ISBN 978-0800794057); 2006; 272 pp. (Lesson 57)**
- ***Of Whom the World Was Not Worthy* by Marie Chapiro. Ms. Chapiro went to Yugoslavia and interviewed those who survived WWII through years of cold and famine by holding to a strong Christian faith. This is an old book but an author favorite! Bethany House Pub (ISBN 978-0871232502) 1978; 256 pp. (Lesson 59)**
- *Assignment: Rescue—An Autobiography* by Varian Fry. In his own words, this is the true story of an undercover agent (Varian Fry)—who risked his life to rescue men and women in Vichy,

France that were destined to Nazi concentration camps! Primary source. Point (ISBN 978-0590469708); 1993. (Lesson 59)

- *If I Perish* by Esther Ahn Kim. Compelling and inspiring, this is the true story of a Korean Christian woman who spent six years as a prisoner in Japan. Moody Publishers (ISBN 978-0802430793); 2001; 277 pp. (Lesson 61)
- *A Higher Call: An Incredible True Story of Combat and Chivalry in the War-Torn Skies of World War II* by Adam Makos. This is the fascinating true story of an unlikely encounter between enemy pilots that was kept top secret until they met again as older men. Berkley (ISBN 978-0425252864); 2012; 400 pp. (Lesson 61)

QUARTER 4

- *The Zion Chronicles* by Bodie Thoene. This five-volume historical fiction series is excellent and very relevant to this lesson as it follows the history of Israel up to its 1948 independence. With light romance, individual titles may be equally enjoyed. Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-1556617546); 1988. (Lesson 64)
- *The Chosen* by Chaim Potek. This classic is not to be missed. Originally published in 1967, it follows the beautiful friendship and life struggles of two Jewish boys in the setting of 1940s Brooklyn. Simon & Schuster (ISBN 978-1501142468); 2022; 272 pp. (Lesson 64)
- ***Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution* by Ji-Li Jiang. This is a riveting true story account of Ji-Li, who survived the upheaval of Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution. This award winner is hard to put down! HarperCollins (ISBN 978-0064462082); 2018; 320 pp. (Lesson 66)**
- *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin. This is the true story of Li Cunxin, born to Chinese peasants, who was trained in ballet and ultimately defected to the United States. Primary source. (See "Younger Students" for a more juvenile version of this story.) Berkley Trade (ISBN 978-0425201336); 2005; 480 pp. (This story is also available as a movie.) (Lesson 66)
- *Countdown* by Deborah Wiles. This historical fiction offers a snippet of everyday life into the Cuban Missile Crisis. While trouble in young Franny Chapman's life seems to overwhelm her, the news of pending war completely rocks her world. Scholastic Inc. (ISBN 978-0545106054); 2013; 400 pp. (Lesson 68)
- *God's Missiles over Cuba: The Tom White Story* by Tom White. This riveting and inspirational story reveals the intense treatment of Tom White, a Christian imprisoned in Communist Cuba after his plane crashed on a Cuban highway! Primary source. Living Sacrifice Book Company (ISBN 978-0880050005); 1999; 222 pp. (Lesson 68)
- *Surviving Hell: A POW's Journey* by Leo Thorsness. In this true story, Thorsness recounts six years of captivity at the "Hanoi Hilton" after he was shot down in North Vietnam. Primary source. Encounter Books (ISBN 978-1594035203); 2011; 160 pp. (Lesson 70)

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Though set in Alabama in the 1930s, this classic was written during the Civil Rights Movement. Beautifully written with strong, noble characters, it tells the story of a lawyer defending a falsely accused African American man. Many editions available. (Lesson 71)
- *Jumping Through Fires: The Gripping Story of One Man's Escape from Revolution to Redemption* by David Nasser. Nasser's family left Iran during the Iranian Revolution. As a result of living under oppression, Nasser hated religion—but God grabbed hold of him and changed his life! Primary source. Baker Books (ISBN 978-0801013355); 2009; 224 pp. (Lesson 75)
- *Captive in Iran: A Remarkable True Story of Hope and Triumph Amid the Horror of Tehran's Brutal Evin Prison* by Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirizadeh. This primary source captures the true story of two faithful Christian women who shared Christ through unimaginable circumstances in a prison in Iran! Tyndale Momentum (ISBN 978-1414371214); 2014; 304 pp. (Lesson 75)
- *The Collapse of the Soviet Union* by David R. Marples. Clear and concise, this book presents a factual approach to the demise of the U.S.S.R. for students of the Western world. Routledge (ISBN 978-0582505995); 2004; 192 pp. (Lesson 79)
- *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton. Probably the most important literary work from South Africa, this beautiful novel of family, race, courage, and forgiveness is a must read. The author, a white South African, gives heart and voice to his tormented homeland. Scribner (ISBN 978-0743262170); 2003; 316 pp. (Lesson 81)
- ***The Breadwinner* (Trilogy) by Deborah Ellis. This historic fiction trilogy introduces readers to 11-year-old Parvana and her friend Shauzia who grow up in Afghanistan and suffer horrifically from the violence of war. This page-turning series does not delve into Islam per se, but details trauma associated with Taliban oppression and refugee living. The success of the series has led to a spin-off graphic novel and a movie that may be of interest to some students. Groundwood Books (ISBN 978-0888999597); 2009; 520 pp. (Lesson 83)**