Recommended Reading

From the EDSITEment resource American Memory [http://memory.loc.gov/]:

General Reading


Books for Young Readers


From the EDSITEment resource Links to the Past [http://www.cr.nps.gov/]:

General Reading

Books for Young Readers


From the EDSITEment resource **Women of the West Museum**

**Grades 5-8**

  
  The story of a family who is hired to work for the library for the summer to deliver books to a remote location in the hills. They must work together and take on different roles than those they usually have. This story has good historical information about lending libraries and early 20th century California. It takes place in 1916.

  
  Lucinda and her little brother live with their mother, aunt, and uncle in Oregon. The uncle goes broke in the panic of 1873, and the family must be creative to stay afloat. Aunt Adelina comes up with the idea of selling tonics and elixirs door-to-door. With the help of the whole family, the scheme works. Historical notes on door-to-door medicine included.

  
  A young girl, her brother and father live on an Army post in Yuma City, AZ. One day, a new girl comes to town who is half-white and half-Pima Indian. She teaches the other girls about white-Indian relations and about “good works” and resourcefulness. There are good historical references to circuses, army forts and a territorial prison where the girls go to write letters.

  
  This story details the fictitious life of a Texas orphan girl who tries to find a home where she will be happy. This historical fiction piece demonstrates the casual adoption practices that were common in the mid to late 1800s. Finally Hallie finds a home. The man she most feared from the orphan “lineups” is eventually the one who offers her the truest family. Rather than become a hired hand, as she was with so many other adopters, she becomes a real part of the family.

  
  Eliza Yates runs away from her evil aunt and uncle in search of her father. Posing as a boy, she meets up with a very young outlaw and joins him on many of his adventures as they both search for family and friendship.

  
  Biography of Susan LaFlesche Picotte with information about changing life on the Omaha reservation in the 1870s to the 1900s. Discusses the problems and changes in Omaha life, including new kinds of houses, farming, alcoholism and learning English. Dr. Picotte is strong and determined to help everybody. After attending school in New Jersey and then a women’s medical college in Philadelphia, she returns to the reservation where she wears herself out helping others.
  This is the first book of a series about a wagon train going to Oregon. Once into the trip, all of the men go after buffalo and most of them die. The women must learn to run the operation themselves—finding game and doing the laundry, etc. Several girls band together for various adventures. They meet up with several Native Americans and learn about themselves and others.

  The Petticoat Party continues on its way West, having many adventures along the way. Many Indian tribes help the wagon train along the way. The party stops at the Whitman’s mission and wonders why they don’t learn Cayuse. Finally, the group makes it to Oregon.

  Non-fiction accounts of African-American women from different states, times and situations in the West during the 1840s to 1900s.

  A good non-fiction book that explores the roles women from different cultures played in the settling of the West. Discusses women at work, moving, making a home, creative arts and everyday life.

  An orphan named Charlotte learns to work with horses as well as how to drive a stagecoach. Charlotte then moves to California. Although she loses an eye, she continues to drive the stage dressed up as a boy and becomes known as “One-Eyed Charley.” She realizes her dream of buying a ranch and votes in an election as a man. The West becomes a place where she can be free to live her life the way she wants.

  Fiction, based on true events, historical information at the end. On a wagon train to Idaho in 1883, an Italian family travels with a large group to start a town (Opportunity) in Idaho. They make friends and enemies along the way, encounter Indians, silver-seekers, and cowboys. The girls make friends and discover that they, too, can make a new start in the West. The family encounters sickness and death, stubbornness when Momma won’t leave Dakota Territory without her piano, and their own courage. Nice personal account of trip West by a girl who learns from the people around her. Told from the point of view of two sisters writing in a diary, challenging traditional Italian rules for “good girls.”

  The story of a young Navajo girl who is kidnapped and sold into slavery. She runs away and returns to her village, only to have the village destroyed by the U.S. Army. Her tribe and many others are forced to migrate to a fort where they are held captive. This story is about the young girl’s trials and triumphs.

  This is the story of two 14-year-old girls who are very different. One is a Mexican immigrant who is prostituting herself to support herself and her family in Mexico. The other is an overprivileged cheerleader. In the final chapter of the book, the two girls meet for only a moment, but in that second, they see that they are very much the same.
Biographies of Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill. The biographies are accompanied by black and white photographs of the show and the performers themselves.

The story of “Grandma”—a 60-year-old woman who accompanies her children’s families on the wagon train to Oregon. Nothing stops Grandma as she shows her determination and will to make her way along the journey. When she finally reaches Oregon Territory, she wants to work to support herself. So she sets up an orphanage and a boarding school. This school grows and flourishes, becoming Pacific University.

Fifteen-year-old Amanda Guthridge is dreading the trip West with her mother. However, when the two join a search party looking for buffalo, they both grow and change, coming to understand themselves and each other a little better. Amanda develops a deep friendship with a Native-American boy who she first thought was her enemy.