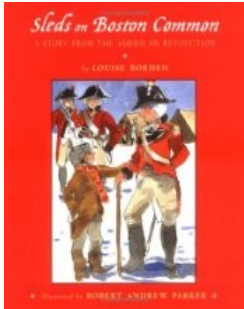


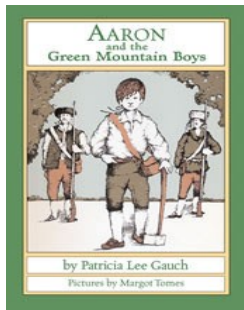
# Recommended Books about the Revolutionary War

Prepared for Jeannine Mundy  
Grade 5 - Huntingburg Elementary



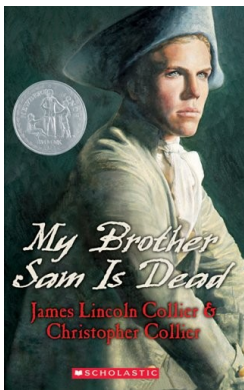
## ***Sleds on Boston Common* by Louise Borden**

**Grade 3-6** – This story, based on local folklore, takes place in Boston during the harsh winter of 1775. It's Henry's ninth birthday, and he wants to use the new sled that his father has made for him. However, British soldiers camped on the Common have built cook fires right in the middle of the best hill. Henry and his siblings see General Thomas Gage, the royal governor of Boston, speaking with his troops. Noting the man's kind eyes and gentle manner, Henry dares to approach him and asks that the sled run be cleared. Moved by the child's earnest request and by his courage, Gage complies. Later, when the war begins and the general returns to England, Henry watches him leave, knowing that, despite their political differences, Gage is a "good man." This well-told story gives a clear picture of life in pre-Revolutionary Boston, and the changes brought by the blockade of Boston Harbor and the encampment of thousands of "lobster backs."



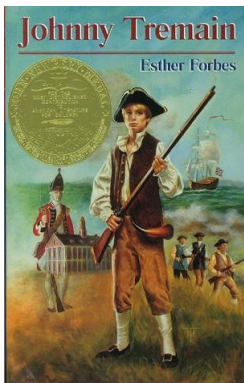
## ***Aaron and the Green Mountain Boys* by Patricia Lee Gauch**

**Grade 3-5** – Can a nine-year-old make a difference during a war? Well, Aaron surely did. During the American Revolutionary war, Aaron is determined to help the Vermont Green Mountain Boys fight the British. He has to come up with some way to keep the British from getting the ammunition stored in the town. Can he do it?



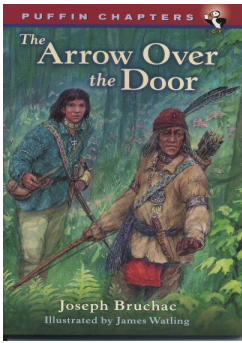
## ***My Brother Sam is Dead* by James Lincoln Collier**

**Grade 4-7** - All his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother Sam. Sam's smart and brave -- and is now a part of the American Revolution. Not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion. Most are supporters of the British -- including Tim and Sam's father. With the war soon raging, Tim know he'll have to make a choice -- between the Revolutionaries and the Redcoats . . . and between his brother and his father.



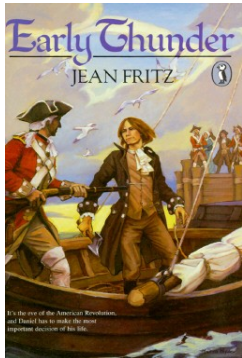
## ***Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes**

**Grade 4-6** – The novel starts in the colonial Boston silversmith shop of Ephraim Lapham, where protagonist Johnny Tremain is a promising young apprentice, betrothed to Ephraim's daughter Priscilla ("Cilla"). The Lapham shop soon receives a challenging silver order from prominent merchant John Hancock. While preparing Hancock's order, Johnny badly burns his hand, crippling it beyond use. With only one good hand, Johnny can no longer work as a silversmith. His betrothal to Cilla is canceled and he is forced to find a living elsewhere. After a series of unfortunate false starts and a failed appeal to wealthy relatives, Johnny settles into a job with a newspaper, the *Boston Observer*. The *Observer* is a Whig publication, and under its employ Johnny is introduced to the larger world of pre-revolutionary Boston politics. As months go by and tension between Whigs and Tories rises, Johnny evolves to become a dedicated Whig himself. Johnny matures and reevaluates many personal relationships, including that with Cilla, who becomes a trusted friend and fellow Whig. The novel reaches its climax with the outbreak and immediate aftermath of the Battles of Lexington and Concord.



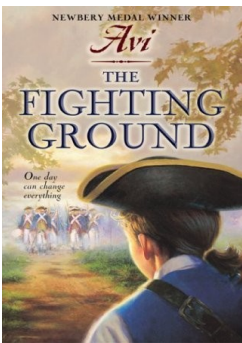
### ***The Arrow Over the Door* by Joseph Bruchac**

**Grade 4-6** – Samuel Russell, a Quaker, wrestles with his faith's pacifism. He hates being called a coward by neighbors whose tolerance for the Quakers has been strained by their refusal to fight for independence. Stands Straight is an Abenaki whose family was killed by colonists. As British troops move toward Saratoga, he joins his uncle in a scouting party as the Abenaki try to decide which side to support. When the scouts reach the meeting house where the Quakers are worshipping, the two boys meet and each one grows as a result of the encounter. An author's note recounts Bruchac's research into the varying accounts of this true event and carefully notes any changes he made in his retelling. Full-page drawings in shades of gray fit the mood of the story without breaking the narrative flow. With a surprising amount of drama and even suspense, this tale of pacifism triumphant makes a good choice for historical fiction collections.



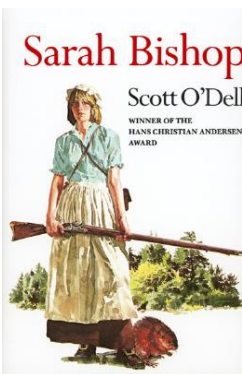
### ***Early Thunder* by Jean Fritz**

**Grade 3-5** - When fourteen-year-old Daniel West is forced to choose between allegiance to England and support of the rebellious American colonists, he makes a stunning public declaration that goes beyond mere words. Travel back to a volatile time when political conflicts raged throughout the colonies, in this historical novel by Jean Fritz. Discover how one boy's brush with danger changes his life's course forever.



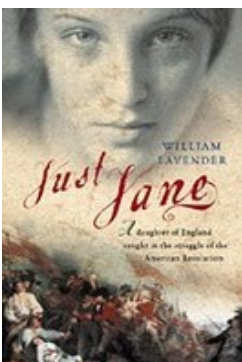
### ***The Fighting Ground* by Avi**

**Grade 5-8** - *The Fighting Ground* explores the experiences of a thirteen-year-old boy who decides to involve himself in a Revolutionary War battle. The entire story takes place in the course of twenty-four hours. Instead of naming his chapters, Avi labels each section with the time it takes place. The events happen quickly, and Avi is an expert at making the reader feel what the character feels. The book is enjoyable both as historical fiction and as an adventure.



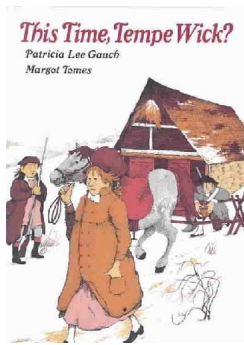
### ***Sarah Bishop* by Scott O'Dell**

**Grade 5-8** —Sarah Bishop isn't a Tory. She isn't a Patriot. Sarah Bishop is a fifteen-year-old girl. The Revolutionary War has come to her village and the Patriots have made her an orphan with a home. Now the British army is after her for a crime she didn't commit. Running for her life, Sarah finds a cave in the woods. Alone, she makes her home there. The wild animals, the terrible hardships are not as bad as what she has left behind. Sarah Bishop vows never trust anyone again. The war will end. Peace will come. But will peace ever find Sarah Bishop?



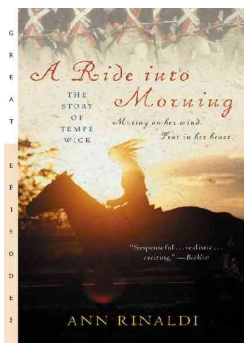
### ***Just Jane* by William Lavender**

**Grade 5-9** - As the book opens in 1776, 14-year-old Lady Jane Prentice, recently orphaned, crosses the Atlantic to live with her Uncle Robert and his wife, Clarissa, in South Carolina. There she becomes aware of differing factions: the Loyalists, including her uncle and his young nephew, an impetuous young man who declares his intention to marry her upon first sight; and the rebels, one of whom is Simon the schoolmaster, who seems to love Jane, though he appears to be having an affair with Clarissa. Soon, the locale switches from Charleston to Rosewall Plantation, some 30 miles inland, where Jane grows up over the next six years of personal questioning, family feuds, and political turmoil, culminating in the Battle of Rosewall.



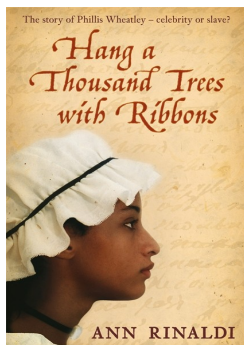
### ***This Time, Tempe Wick?* by Patricia Lee Gauch**

**Grade 3-6** – Tempe Wick has always been a strong girl, in temperament as well as physically, but her mettle is truly tested by mutinous Revolutionary soldiers. She is a strong supporter of the American Revolution, even after her father dies and her mother takes ill, but she is infuriated by the demands of two soldiers for her horse. Thinking quickly, she hides the horse in her bedroom and stands guard—coming up with one ingenious response after another for the soldiers as to why she is bringing hay, water, etc. into the house. After several days, Tempe single-handedly defends her home from the angry soldiers. Based on a true story of a New Jersey girl, this simple tale of the strength and spirit of a true heroine should be an inspiration to all readers.



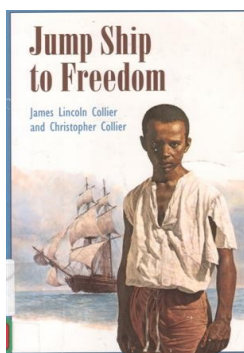
### ***A Ride into Morning* by Ann Rinaldi**

**Grade 5-8** - The legend of Tempe Wick, a young Colonial woman who hid her horse in her house to protect him from mutinous Revolutionary soldiers, is related through the eyes of her 14-year-old cousin Mary. The author's note states that Rinaldi made Mary the narrator "because Tempe was 22 at the time of the mutiny and too old for a young adult novel." However, this changes the focus of the story in a disconcerting manner: Mary is the level-headed, sensible, fiery patriot, while Tempe is portrayed as a beautiful girl turned bitter, confused, and overwhelmed by the war and her family responsibilities. Rinaldi makes excellent use of her research into the period, establishing a believable army camp with such historical figures as General Anthony Wayne, as well as real soldiers whose letters provided details for the story.



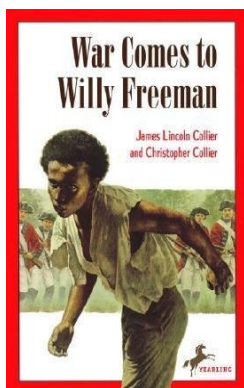
### ***Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons* by Ann Rinaldi**

**Grade 5-8** - Phillis Wheatley, America's first black poet, was a child when purchased by John Wheatley in 1761, and her entrance into his Boston household marked the beginning of her unique position. She was educated, nurtured, and encouraged to write by the prominent Wheatleys, but was never considered an equal because of her color. It is Phillis' dilemma of belonging to neither the white nor the slave society that Rinaldi so well delineates. Obviously deeply researched, the novel abounds with details of colonial life--encounters the Wheatleys had with America's early historical figures as well as the effects of the day's politics on Mrs. Wheatley's campaign to get Phillis' poetry published. The poet's circumstances deteriorated after the deaths of the Wheatleys, and she died at age 30 in abject poverty, her husband in debtor's prison.



### ***Jump Ship to Freedom* by James Lincoln Collier**

**Grade 3-6** —Young Daniel Arabus and his mother are slaves in the house of Captain Ivers of Stratford, Connecticut. By law they should be free, since Daniel's father fought in the Revolutionary army and earned enough in soldiers' notes to buy his family's freedom. But now Daniel's father is dead, and Mrs. Ivers has taken the notes from his mother. When Daniel bravely steals the notes back, a furious Captain Ivers forces him aboard a ship bound for the West Indies--and certain slavery. Even if Daniel can manage to jump ship in New York, will he be able to travel the long and dangerous road to freedom?



### ***War Comes to Willy Freeman* by James Lincoln Collier**

**Grade 3-6** - A free thirteen-year-old black girl in Connecticut is caught up in the horror of the Revolutionary War and the danger of being returned to slavery when her patriot father is killed by the British and her mother disappears. A suspenseful historical novel about a young black woman's fight against racism.