

# YEAR 1 HISTORY

## READ-ALOUD SUGGESTIONS

As part of the course, you may wish to select and read four books to your child(ren), one to go along with each of the four units in the course. It is recommended that you read for at least 20 minutes at the end of each lesson. However, to finish most books by the end of the unit, a longer reading time will be required. Some parents choose to do history lessons twice a week but the read-aloud book more often.

### UNIT 1 SUGGESTED READ-ALOUD BOOKS

#### All Ages (Grades 3-8)

1. ***Boy of the Pyramids*** by Ruth Fosdick Jones

Kaffe, the 10-year-old son of a wealthy Egyptian nobleman, has fourteen copper rings to spend at the bustling Memphis market. He hopes to buy a dagger of his own but instead makes a choice that will alter his life forever. Through thrilling experiences at the harvest feast, bullfight, and annual flood, ancient Egypt comes to life. His greatest test awaits as he works to unravel the mystery of the pyramid.

2. ***The Bronze Bow*** by Elizabeth George Speare

This novel is set in 1st-century Galilee during the time of Jesus. It follows Daniel, a boy consumed by hatred for the Romans after his father's death. His perspective begins to shift when he reconnects with old friends and returns home to care for his sister, Leah. Through these relationships and the teachings of Jesus, Daniel learns to let go of vengeance and embrace love and forgiveness.

#### Intermediate Ages and Older (Grades 7-8)

1. ***The Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt*** by Elizabeth Payne

This book delves into the lives of powerful pharaohs, their reigns, and their lasting impacts on ancient Egyptian culture. From the construction of monumental pyramids to the rise and fall of legendary rulers like Ramses the Great and

Tutankhamun, the author provides an insightful look into the world of the pharaohs. With detailed and informative storytelling, this book offers a great introduction to the history and legacy of ancient Egypt.

2. ***The Cat of Bubastes*** by G.A. Henty

A historical adventure novel set in ancient Egypt, following Amuba, a young prince from a conquered land who is taken as a slave. He serves the Egyptian high priest's family and befriends Chebron, the priest's son, but their lives take a dangerous turn when Chebron accidentally causes the death of a sacred cat. Forced to flee, they embark on a perilous journey filled with excitement, battles, and survival. The story explores themes of friendship, courage, and faith against the backdrop of ancient Egyptian customs and conflicts.

3. ***The Riddle of the Rosetta Stone*** by James Cross Giblin

This 75-page book tells of the discovery and translation of the Rosetta Stone. This fantastic book is well written and easy enough for children eight and older to understand (as a read-aloud) while still being informative and engaging even for adults. The book features large print and great illustrations and images. Note for parents: The Rosetta Stone is a topic in one of the stories in ***The Big Book of History Stories-Year 1***. We recommend this resource for additional in-depth learning.

4. ***God King: A Story in the Days of King Hezekiah*** by Joanne Williamson

This is a historical novel set in ancient Egypt and Israel. It follows Prince Taharka, the young pharaoh of Egypt, who is forced to flee his own kingdom when political betrayal threatens his life. Seeking refuge in Israel, he becomes entangled in King Hezekiah's struggle against the powerful Assyrian Empire. Through his journey, Taharka discovers the true source of strength and leadership, as the story explores themes of faith, destiny, and courage.

5. ***Mara, Daughter of the Nile*** by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

This story takes place in ancient Egypt, following Mara, a clever and resourceful slave who longs for freedom. She becomes a double spy, working for both the rebellious forces supporting Thutmose III and the powerful Queen Hatshepsut. As she navigates a world of danger, deception, and political unrest, she must decide where her true loyalties lie. The story weaves themes of adventure, romance, and personal growth against the rich backdrop of ancient Egyptian history.

6. ***The Golden Goblet*** by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

Ranofer, an orphaned boy and goldsmith's porter in the ancient Egyptian city of Thebes, has discovered a thief. But it isn't just any thief, it's someone he knows well. His discovery leads him on a suspenseful journey to thwart the evil plans of the thief. Readers are not only left with greater knowledge about ancient Egypt but also with messages about working through trials, friendship, hard work, and courage. Note: The main character suffers physical and verbal abuse by his brother, which may be difficult for some children.

## UNIT 2 SUGGESTED READ-ALOUD BOOKS

### All Ages (Grades 3-8)

1. ***The Saracen Steed*** by Arthur Anthony Gladd

When a simple farm boy befriends a mysterious horse near Abbey St. Simon, he never imagines

the adventures that await him. As Christendom hangs in the balance, young Hugh embarks on a daring mission to save his people from the Saracens. Against all odds, he proves his courage with the help of one of their own majestic steeds. Set during the Crusades, this uplifting tale blends history, heroism, and moral depth without relying on graphic details.

2. ***The Door in the Wall*** by Marguerite de Angeli

This novel tells the story of Robin, a young boy in medieval England who is crippled by a fever and confined to a room in a castle. Despite his disability, Robin is determined to live a life of purpose, and with the encouragement of his loyal servants, he learns to adapt and grow. As he faces challenges and adventures, Robin discovers his inner strength and courage. The novel explores themes of perseverance, independence, and overcoming adversity.

3. ***Huguenot Garden*** by Douglas M. Jones III

Set in La Rochelle, France, in 1865, this historical children's novel follows the lives of young twin sisters and their French Protestant family. The lifestyle, challenges, and values of the Huguenots are woven throughout, creating an enthralling and at times emotionally stirring glimpse into a period of Protestant oppression and persecution by Louis XIV.

### Older Children Only (Grades 7-8)

1. ***Wings Like a Dove: The Courage of Queen Jeanne d'Albret*** by Christine Farenhorst

This book tells the true story of a largely forgotten but important and heroic woman of the Reformation, Jeanne d'Albret, who becomes queen of Navarre. This powerful story is inspiring as it skillfully tells of Jeanne's incredible courage and kindness in a time fraught with dangers and persecution. The plot is intriguing, and the story is packed with meaning and educational value. Note: Catholics should be aware that this novel takes a Protestant worldview.

2. ***Joan of Arc: Warrior Saint*** by Jay Williams

This is a historical biography that chronicles the life of Joan of Arc, the young peasant girl who led French forces to victory during the Hundred Years' War. It explores her visions and divine guidance, which inspired her to stand up against the English invaders. Despite facing immense skepticism and opposition, Joan's bravery and faith make her a symbol of courage and patriotism. The book highlights her remarkable journey, her trial, and ultimate martyrdom, illustrating her legacy as both a warrior and a saint.

3. ***The Ocean of Truth: The Story of Sir Isaac Newton*** by Joyce McPherson

This is a biography that tells the story of the great scientist Isaac Newton. It explores his early life, his groundbreaking discoveries in mathematics and physics, and his development of the laws of motion and gravity. The book highlights Newton's intense curiosity and dedication to understanding the natural world, along with his struggles and triumphs in the scientific community. Through this narrative, readers learn about Newton's lasting impact on science and his pursuit of knowledge.

## UNIT 3 SUGGESTED READ-ALOUD BOOKS

### All Ages (Grades 3-8)

1. ***The Three Gold Doubloons*** by Edith Thacher Hurd

This book follows the adventure of three young children who discover three valuable gold doubloons hidden in a pirate's chest. As they embark on a quest to uncover the mystery behind the doubloons, they encounter various challenges and exciting situations. Along the way, the children learn important lessons about teamwork, honesty, and the value of friendship. The story combines adventure with valuable moral teachings, creating an engaging and thoughtful tale for young readers.

2. ***Silver for General Washington: A Story of Valley Forge*** by Enid LaMonte Meadowcroft

This book is a historical novel set during the harsh winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge, where General George Washington and his Continental Army are struggling to survive. The story follows a young boy named Ben who is determined to help the troops and prove his worth. Through Ben's journey, readers learn about the hardships faced by soldiers, the importance of perseverance, and the spirit of sacrifice. The novel emphasizes themes of bravery, loyalty, and the critical role of ordinary people in the fight for independence.

### Younger Children Only (Grades 3-4)

1. ***Martha Washington: America's First First Lady*** by Jean Brown Wagoner

This is a biography that explores the life of Martha Washington, the wife of George Washington and the first First Lady of the United States. It details her early life, her marriage to George, and her role during the American Revolution, where she supported the troops and managed her household. The book also highlights her duties as First Lady, helping to shape the role of women in early American society. Through her story, readers learn about Martha's strength and leadership, and the sacrifices she made for her country.

2. ***The Sign Painter's Secret: The Story of a Revolutionary Girl*** by Dorothy Hoobler and Thomas Hoobler

This novel tells the story of 12-year-old Hannah, a young girl in New York City during the American Revolution. When she stumbles upon a hidden message concealed in a sign painted by her father, she is drawn into the world of espionage, aiding the Patriots in their struggle against the British. As she navigates danger and uncovers crucial secrets, Hannah demonstrates remarkable courage and ingenuity. The novel explores themes of loyalty, bravery, and the significant impact of ordinary individuals on history.

### 3. *Toliver's Secret* by Esther Wood Brady

This is a historical novel set during the American Revolution, following 10-year-old Ellen Toliver, a young girl who embarks on a secret mission. After her grandfather is injured, Toliver takes on the dangerous task of delivering important messages for the Patriot cause. Disguised as a boy to avoid detection by the British, she faces many challenges as she journeys across enemy lines. The story highlights themes of courage, resourcefulness, and the determination of young people to contribute to their country's fight for independence.

### Intermediate Ages and Older (Grades 5–8)

#### 1. *The Swamp Fox of the Revolution* by Stewart H. Holbrook

This book tells the story of Francis Marion, a legendary figure in the American Revolution known for his guerrilla warfare tactics against the British. Operating in the swamps of South Carolina, Marion became famous for his ability to elude capture and strike at the heart of British forces. The book highlights his bravery and leadership, and the loyalty of his men in the face of overwhelming odds. Through Marion's story, readers learn about the unconventional methods that helped secure American independence during the war.

#### 2. *Tree of Freedom* by Rebecca Caudill

This novel is set during the American Revolution, following the life of a young girl named Stephanie who lives in the Kentucky wilderness. As her family faces the challenges of living on the frontier, Stephanie learns about the larger struggle for American independence. Throughout the story, she grows in courage and maturity as she witnesses the sacrifices made by those fighting for freedom. The novel explores themes of bravery, perseverance, and the importance of family and community during a turbulent time in history.

### Older Children Only (Grades 7–8)

#### 1. *Seven Miracles That Saved America: Why They Matter and Why We Should Have Hope* by Chris Stewart and Ted Stewart

This book explores seven key events in American history that the authors believe were miraculous in safeguarding the nation's freedom. The book discusses moments such as Washington's leadership, the endurance of the Continental Army, and crucial battles that helped turn the Revolutionary War in favor of the Patriots. Through these stories, they inspire readers to find hope in the nation's history and acknowledge the extraordinary factors that contributed to its success.

#### 2. *Apostle of Liberty: The World-Changing Leadership of George Washington* by Stephen McDowell

This book explores the life and leadership of George Washington, emphasizing his deep faith and moral character. The book highlights Washington's crucial role in securing American independence and shaping the nation's foundations. Through this portrayal, readers gain insight into how Washington's leadership transformed not only America but also the course of world history.

#### 3. *The Winter at Valley Forge* by F. Van Wyck Mason

This is a historical novel set during the brutal winter of 1777–1778, when General George Washington and his Continental Army endured severe hardships at Valley Forge. The story follows a young soldier named Tom who is struggling to survive the cold, hunger, and disease that plague the troops. As Tom witnesses Washington's unwavering leadership and the soldiers' sacrifices, he gains a deeper understanding of the cause for which they are fighting. The novel highlights themes of perseverance, sacrifice, and the strength of the human spirit during a pivotal moment in American history.

## UNIT 4 SUGGESTED READ–ALOUD BOOKS

### All Ages (Grades 3–8)

#### 1. ***Through the Wall*** by Alida Sims Malkus

When his father is suddenly arrested, twelve-year-old Hansi faces stark realities that go against everything he has ever known. Discovering a family secret, setting on a daring quest to cross the Berlin Wall, and making new friends that help him on his journey all give Hansi a new perspective on his former ways of life in post-World War II East Berlin.

#### 2. ***Nory Ryan’s Song*** by Patricia Reilly Giff

This book is set in 1845 during the Great Irish Famine, following a young girl named Nory Ryan. When her father is lost at sea and her family struggles to survive, Nory is determined to help her loved ones by finding food and support. As the famine worsens and the village faces hardship, Nory’s courage and resilience shine through. The novel explores themes of survival, hope, and the strength of family during one of the darkest times in Irish history.

#### 3. ***Gladys Aylward: No Mountain Too High*** by Myrna Grant

This book tells the inspiring true story of Gladys Aylward, a British woman who became a missionary in China. Despite facing numerous obstacles, including a lack of formal education and financial resources, Gladys traveled to China and devoted her life to helping the poor and spreading the Gospel. Her courage and determination were put to the test as she navigated the challenges of war and political unrest, even leading over 100 orphaned children to safety during a dangerous time. The book highlights themes of faith, perseverance, and selfless service in the face of adversity.

#### 4. ***Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift’s “Chocolate Pilot”*** by Michael O. Tunnell

This book tells the inspiring true story of Colonel Gail Halvorsen, who became known as the “Chocolate Pilot” during the Berlin Airlift in 1948. As part of the U.S. effort to supply West Berlin with food and supplies during the Soviet blockade, Halvorsen began dropping candy attached to small parachutes to the children below. His simple act of kindness quickly grew into a symbol of hope for the people of Berlin, and he became a beloved figure. The book highlights themes of generosity, compassion, and the power of small gestures to make a big difference in times of hardship.

#### 5. ***Children of the Storm: The Autobiography of Natasha Vins*** by Natasha Vins

Vins recounts her experiences growing up in the Soviet Union under religious persecution. As the daughter of a pastor, Natasha faced intense hardships as her family endured imprisonment, harassment, and separation for their Christian beliefs. Despite the challenges, she remained steadfast in her faith and commitment to God, finding strength in her convictions. The memoir offers a powerful glimpse into the struggles faced by religious dissidents in the Soviet era, highlighting resilience, faith, and the power of family.

#### 6. ***The House of Sixty Fathers*** by Meindert DeJong

The House of Sixty Fathers by Meindert DeJong tells the story of a young Chinese boy named Tien Pao, who is separated from his family during World War II. As the Japanese army advances, Tien Pao embarks on a dangerous journey to reunite with his parents, aided by his courage and resourcefulness. Along the way, he encounters kindness and hardship, as well as the challenges of war and survival. The novel emphasizes themes of perseverance, family, and the strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

## Younger Children Only (Grades 3–4)

### 1. *Ivan and the Hidden Bible* by Myrna Grant

This book tells the story of Ivan, a young boy living in the Soviet Union during a time when Christianity was banned. His family secretly hides a Bible, knowing the risks of possessing such a forbidden book. As Ivan navigates the challenges of growing up in a society that suppresses faith, he learns the importance of courage, hope, and the strength of his beliefs. The book highlights the dangers faced by those who practice their faith in secret, offering a moving portrayal of resilience and the power of God's word.

## Intermediate Ages and Older (Grades 5–8)

### 1. *Nate Saint: On a Wing and a Prayer* by Janet Bengé and Geoff Bengé

This book tells the inspiring story of Nate Saint, a missionary pilot who risked his life to bring the gospel to remote tribes in Ecuador. As part of the missionary team, he developed a unique method of flying supplies and messages to isolated people in the jungle, using his skills as a pilot to bridge the gap between cultures. Nate's unwavering dedication led to his involvement in a daring mission to reach the Waodani tribe, a group notorious for their violence. The book highlights his courage, faith, and the lasting impact of his sacrifice on the world of missions.

### 2. *Eric Liddell: Something Greater than Gold* by Janet Bengé and Geoff Bengé

This novel tells the story of Eric Liddell, an Olympic gold medalist who chose his faith over athletic fame. Known for his speed on the track, Eric famously refused to race on Sundays due to his Christian beliefs, which led to his withdrawal from the 1924 Paris Olympics. Instead of pursuing further glory in sports, Eric went on to become a missionary in China, where he dedicated his life to serving others. The book highlights Eric's unwavering commitment to his faith and the impact of his selfless choices on those around him.

### 3. *David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer* by Janet Bengé and Geoff Bengé

This book chronicles the life of David Livingstone, the Scottish missionary and explorer who dedicated much of his life to Africa. Driven by a passion for spreading Christianity and ending the slave trade, Livingstone ventured deep into the African continent, mapping unexplored regions and making significant discoveries. Despite facing harsh conditions, illness, and personal loss, he remained committed to his mission. The book highlights his perseverance, bravery, and the lasting impact he made in the fields of exploration and humanitarian work.

## Older Children Only (Grades 7–8)

### 1. *I Am David* by Anne Holm

This book follows the journey of a 12-year-old boy named David, who escapes from a concentration camp in Eastern Europe and begins a journey to freedom. Having spent most of his life in the camp, David struggles to understand the world outside and to trust others, as he has only known hardship and cruelty. Along the way, he encounters kindness and faces challenges that help him grow and learn about himself and the world. The novel explores themes of survival, trust, and the power of hope, as David learns to heal and discover his own identity.