

History Odyssey: Early Modern Level Two

Alternative Books and Additions

As the world changes, so does historiography. The approaches and methods used to tell the story of history are rapidly evolving to reflect a more inclusive, holistic view of world history. There are new resources, materials, and research that, even in just the past few years, have revealed how history as a subject has missed, marginalized, or distorted the past for many people and communities.

As I work on writing a new History Odyssey series, my goal is to present middle and high school students with a history education that embodies an intersectional, balanced, global experience that connects them with concepts and skills while underlining the impact the past has had on current events.

In the meantime, I've created a list of some alternative books to use with the current History Odyssey Level Two series that are more aligned with the goals mentioned above but still fit within the framework of the existing curriculum.

Thanks for choosing History Odyssey,

—Samantha Matalone Cook, MAT

Below is a list of titles from Early Modern Level Two and the alternative books that could be read in their place or that could be added. Also included is a lesson schedule for the alternative books and additions.

I, Juan de Pareja by Elizabeth Borton de Treviño

★ **Research Project.** This book and *Amos Fortune* (see below) have been criticized for perpetuating the “happy slave” trope, but I have not found an adequate replacement for *I, Juan de Pareja*. I suggest doing a research project instead. Research and write an essay or do a project on the impact of the Scientific Revolution (16th and 17th centuries). Developments in science and mathematics during the Scientific Revolution heralded the emergence of new knowledge and thought, and transformed the natural world from one of magic and mystery to one of scientific method and empirical evidence.

Amos Fortune: Free Man by Elizabeth Yates

★ ***Sugar Changed the World* by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos**

The Landing of the Pilgrims by James Daugherty

★ ***1493 for Young People: From Columbus' Voyage to Globalization* by Charles Mann and Rebecca Stefoff.** This book offers a greater perspective on how the colonization that came after Columbus' contact with North America changed the whole world.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

★ ***Witches! The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem* by Rosalyn Schanzer**

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

★ **No alternative.** I suggest skipping this book because of problematic issues, lacking accuracy and promoting Native American stereotypes.

Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes

Choose one of the following to replace *Johnny Tremain*.

★ ***Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson.** *Chains* centers around an enslaved teen during the early days of the American Revolution. It stands alone, but is part of a trilogy, if readers would like to continue.

- ★ ***Hamilton and Peggy!: A Revolutionary Friendship* by L.M. Elliot.** A novel about the friendship between Alexander Hamilton and Peggy Schuyler, and may delight fans of the musical. Please note it does have some light romance.
- ★ ***Copper Sun* by Sharon M. Draper.** The story of an enslaved teen, from her capture in Africa to her life on a plantation. This book is only recommended for older students, as descriptions include mature topics that are difficult to read about. It also features Fort Mose in Florida, the first legally sanctioned free African settlement in the United States.

The American Revolution by Bruce Bliven, Jr.

I suggest substituting or adding a study of important US documents and primary sources.

- ★ ***The Constitution: A Collection of Historically Important Communications of the United States of America* from Bendon Publishing.** Contains The Constitution of the United States, The Declaration of Independence, The Treaty of Paris (1783), The Gettysburg Address, The Star-Spangled Banner, The Pledge of Allegiance, and the speech “I Have a Dream.”

Carry on, Mr. Bowditch by Jean Lee Latham

- ★ ***Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

The Captain’s Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe by Roland Smith

- ★ **Research Project.** Most literature on Lewis and Clark is historically inaccurate or incomplete, so I suggest doing some research, especially on Sacajawea.

The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare

- ★ ***How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story* by Tim Tingle.** I suggest substituting with this book because of problematic issues, lacking accuracy and promoting stereotypes found in *The Sign of the Beaver*.

Additional book that could be added to Early Modern Level Two

- ★ ***Mill* by David Macaulay.** A fascinating look at how the Industrial Revolution created a need for the development and construction of mills. The book highlights both building and management.

Reading schedule

Early Modern Level Two Resources	Alternative and Added Books	Suggested Alternative Reading Schedule
<i>The Kingfisher History Encyclopedia</i>		The entire study guide is based on this encyclopedia, use this text as suggested.
<i>The Story of Mankind</i>	This book is optional and is omitted by many students.	There is not a good early modern narrative history alternative to TSOM.
<i>The History Odyssey Timeline</i>		Use as suggested.
<i>I, Juan de Pareja</i>	Alternative project: Research and write an essay or do a project on the impact of the Scientific Revolution (16th and 17th centuries).	Complete during lessons 10–12.
<i>Amos Fortune: Free Man</i>	<i>Sugar Changed the World</i> by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos	Read during lessons 22–24.

<i>The Landing of the Pilgrims</i>	<i>1493 for Young People: From Columbus' Voyage to Globalization</i> by Charles Mann and Rebecca Steffoff	Students can read the book in its entirety or split the book up. Certain sections of this book line up well with specific lessons due to subject matter and focus. For lessons 16–18, read Part 1–3 of this book. For lessons 25–27, read part 5 of this book. For lessons 40–44, read part 4 of this book.
<i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i>	<i>Witches! The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem</i> by Rosalyn Schanzer	Read for lesson 30.
<i>Oliver Twist</i>		Use as suggested.
Book to add to Part II: Revolution	<i>Mill</i> by David Macaulay	Read during lessons 41–44.
<i>Kidnapped</i>		Use as suggested.
<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	Suggest omitting this book.	Skip lesson 55.
<i>Johnny Tremain</i>	<i>Chains</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson <i>Hamilton and Peggy!: A Revolutionary Friendship</i> by L.M. Elliot Copper <i>Sun</i> by Sharon M. Draper	Read during lessons 58–59.
<i>The American Revolution</i>	<i>The Constitution: A Collection of Historically Important Communications of the United States of America</i> from Bendon Publishing	Read during lesson 62. A great activity would be creating new Constitutional Amendments that your student feels are needed today.
<i>Carry On, Mr. Bowditch</i>	<i>Fever 1793</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson	Read during lessons 66–67.
<i>The Captian's Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe</i>	I suggest omitting this book and doing research instead, especially on Sacajawea. PBS has a Ken Burns documentary on the Lewis and Clark expedition that has been given good reviews.	Lesson 84
<i>The Sign of the Beaver</i>	<i>How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story</i> by Tim Tingle	Read during lessons 86.