

# History Odyssey: Modern Times 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 Modern Times 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.

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

- ★ ***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse* by Joseph Marshall III.** This is a Native-authored book that tells the story of the famous Lakota warrior during a road trip taken by a modern-day Lakota grandfather and his grandson.

*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

- ★ ***Behind Rebel Lines* by Seymour Reit**

*The Red Baron* by Manfred Van Richtofen

I suggest replacing *The Red Baron* with one of these more historically accurate World War I stories.

- ★ ***Stay Where You Are and Then Leave* by John Browne.** The story of a boy who finds his father shell-shocked during World War I.
- ★ ***The War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo.** This story follows the adventures of Joey, a farm horse who is sold to the army and must survive during World War I.

*No Promises in the Wind* by Irene Hunt

- ★ **Research Project.** Instead of this book, your student could do a research project on Dorothea Lange, an American photographer and photojournalist. Some of her most famous and powerful work was her documentation of the Great Depression.

*Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

These stories might connect with students more on this subject:

- ★ ***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**
- ★ ***Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry**

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

- ★ ***It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (Adapted for Young Readers)* by Trevor Noah.** The true biography of the famous comedian as he grew up in South Africa Apartheid.

Additional books that could be added to Modern Times Level Two

- ★ ***Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac.** An incredible story from World War II that highlights Native American culture and achievement.

- ★ ***The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani.** A tale written in diary form about the Partition of India in 1947.
- ★ ***I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)* by Malala Yousafzai.** This book connects readers with Middle Eastern current events through a young person’s perspective, who was greatly impacted by the cultural and political climate of the region.
- ★ ***A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story* by Linda Sue Park.** Focuses on two kids in the Sudan and how their lives intersect, tackling issues of refugees and the importance of clean, available water.
- ★ ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba.** A story about the ingenuity of one young man who helped his Malawian village by bringing electricity to combat drought and famine.

### Reading schedule

Modern Times 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 modern history narrative alternative to TSOM.
<i>The History Odyssey Timeline</i>		Use as suggested.
<i>Around the World in Eighty Day</i>		Use as suggested.
<i>Things Fall Apart</i>		Use as suggested.
<i>The Jungle Book</i>		Use as suggested.
<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	<i>In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse</i> by Joseph Marshall III	Read during lessons 39–42.
<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	<i>Behind Rebel Lines</i> by Seymour Reit	Read during lessons 44-48.
<i>The Red Baron</i>	<i>Stay Where You Are and Then Leave</i> by John Browne <i>The War Horse</i> by Michael Morpurgo	Read during lessons 50–55.
<i>Animal Farm</i>		Use as suggested.
<i>No Promises in the Wind</i>	Research project on Dorothea Lange	Lesson 63
<i>Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl</i>	<i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak <i>Number the Stars</i> by Lois Lowry	Read during lessons 69–72.
Additional book for Part VII: World War II	<i>Code Talker</i> by Joseph Bruchac	Read during lessons 73–75.
<i>Chinese Cinderella</i>		Use as suggested.
Additional book for Part VIII: The World Post World War II	<i>The Night Diary</i> by Veera Hiranandani	Read during lessons 82–84.
Additional book for Part IX: The Middle East	<i>I am Malala (Young Readers Edition)</i> by Malala Yousafzai	Read during lessons 85–89.
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	<i>It’s Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</i> by Trevor Noah	Read during lessons 90–94.
Additional books for Part X: Civil Rights, the Environment, and the Economy	<i>A Long Walk to Water</i> by Linda Sue Park <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> by William Kamkwamba	These two choices were added as a final book to underline the connection between the environment and social issues. Read during lessons 95–99.