

Picture Books (Ages 4-8)

Cowboy Small / by Lois Lenski

Cowboy Small takes good care of his horse, rides the range helps in the round up, and rides a bucking bronco.

Pecos Bill: A Tall Tale / by Steven Kellogg

The fabled cowboy hero from American West pioneer days, Pecos Bill's story comes to life from his childhood among the coyotes to his unusual wedding day.

Buffalo Bill and the Pony Express / by Eleanor Coerr

Sixteen-year old Bill finds adventure when he becomes a rider for the Pony Express. He is chased by thieves, caught in bad weather and stalked by wolves in his many travels. (Ages 4-8)

The Dirty Cowboy / by Amy Timberlake

Telling his faithful dog to make sure nobody touches his clothes but him, a cowboy jumps into a New Mexico river for his yearly bath not realizing how much the scrubbing will change his scent. (Ages 4-8)

The Toughest Cowboy: or How the Wild West Was Tamed / by John Frank

Grizz Brickbottom is a tough old cowboy. He flosses with barbed wire and drinks a quart of Tabasco sauce each day but that ain't nothing 'till a poodle named Foofy comes into the mix.

Cindy Ellen: A Wild Western Cinderella / by Susan Lowell

Cindy Ellen's meaner-than-a-rattlesnake stepmother bullies her into doing all the dirty work on the ranch and forbids her to attend the biggest event of the season, a rodeo and square dance. Cindy Ellen loses one of her diamond spurs at the dance in this western retelling of the classic Cinderella story. (Ages 4-8)

Cowboy Slim / by Julie Danneberg

Untalented at riding, roping, and cracking a whip, Slim the cowboy calms a stampeding herd of cattle with his poetry.

Words West: Voices of Young Pioneers / by Ginger Wadsworth

Excerpts from personal letters, journals, and memoirs help chronicle the experiences of children who traveled west with their families in covered wagons between 1830 and 1870.

The cowboy's handbook : how to become a hero of the wild West / by Tod Cody

An introduction to the clothes, horses, work, and day-to-day life of the nineteenth-century cowboy. Includes instructions for a variety of related activities and projects.

Born to Be a Cowgirl: A Spirited Ride Through the Old West / by Candace Savage

Out West, daughters were raised on the range with an independent spirit and horses in their blood and this book tells the stories of those daring girls and women who defied convention to ride horses, lasso cattle and buck broncos. The book is aimed at girls who love horses and who are hungry for heroines.

Yippee-yay! : a book about cowboys and cowgirls / Gail Gibbons

Explains and illustrates the equipment, work, and lifestyle of cowboys and cowgirls in the Old West.

My First Horse / by Will James

A young cowboy describes his early experiences with horses, from a hobby horse made of a cottonwood log to a horse-shaped pull-toy, and at last a real pony of his own.

Middle Readers ages 8-12

The Good, The Bad, and The Goofy / by Jon Scieszka

The Time Warp Trio find themselves in the Wild West of yesteryear, rubbing elbows with cowboys and Indians.

The cowgirl aunt of Harriet Bean / by Alexander McCall Smith

When she joins Aunt Japonica and Aunt Thessalonika on a trip to America, nine-year-old Harriet meets yet another relative--Aunt Formica, a cowgirl who is having trouble with some clever and mysterious cattle rustlers.

Young Adult Books (Ages 12 +)

The Adventurous Deeds of Deadwood Jones / by Helen Hemphill

Thirteen-year-old Prometheus Jones and his eleven-year-old cousin Omer flee Tennessee and join a cattle drive that will eventually take them to Texas, where Prometheus hopes his father lives, and they find adventure and face challenges as African Americans in a land still recovering from the Civil War.

In the Days of the Vaqueros: America's First True Cowboys / by Russell Freedman

Vaqueros, from vaca, the Spanish word for cow, were Native Americans conscripted by wealthy Spaniards to herd cattle on the Mexican plains. The vaqueros became spectacular riders and masters of the art of herding. Three hundred years later, they taught the settlers to the American West how to round up cattle, bring down a steer, and break a wild bronco.

Black Frontiers: A History of African American Heroes in the Old West / by Lillian Schlissel

Focuses on the experiences of blacks as mountain men, soldiers, homesteaders, and scouts on the frontiers of the American West.

The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black cowboy / by Walter Dean Myers

In 1871 Joshua Loper, a sixteen-year-old black cowboy, records in his journal his experiences while making his first cattle drive under an unsympathetic trail boss.

Cowboy stories / illustrated by Barry Moser

This collection of 20 stories by well-known writers features the most American of icons, the cowboy that tell the tales of cattle drives, gunfights, ranching, Indians, and battling the environment.

Adult Books

Blue-Eyed Devil / by Robert B. Parker (Adult Fiction)

When Appaloosa police chief Amos Callico begins shaking down local merchants for protection money, those who don't want to play along seek the help of Cole and Hitch.

Hard Trail to Follow by Elmer Kelton

In the seventh novel in Kelton's acclaimed Texas Ranger series, former Ranger Andy Pickard leaves his fiancé's farm in north central Texas to track the man who he believes killed his friend, Sheriff Tom Blessing.

Far Bright Star by Robert Olmstead – Winner of the 2010 Spur Award for Short Fiction

Set in 1916, "Far Bright Star" follows Napoleon Childs, an aging cavalryman, as he leads an expedition of inexperienced soldiers into the mountains of Mexico to hunt down Pancho Villa and bring him to justice. This tightly wound novel is as stunning as it is terrifying.

Dreams Beneath Your Feet / by Win Blevins.

Sam Morgan and his people take Lei Palua, a terrified woman who has escaped the clutches of a psychopath, under their wing unaware that her one-time lover and now bloodthirsty nemesis dogs her trail, vowing to kill her and all who stand in his way.

The Chivalry of Crime by Desmond Barry

Chivalry of crime mingles the life of an imaginary boy with the factually faithful account of the lives of Jesse James and Robert Ford, the man who killed James. Joshua is determined to get a gun of his own; a desire that puts his own life in jeopardy and reveals the painful realities masked by some of North American's most cherished myths.

A novel of the outlaw Jesse James weaves actual characters and events into a fictional narrative centered on one of America's most enduring myths.

Adult Books Kern County Local History Theme

Dear Cora: a personal history of Bakersfield's early days / Camille Gavin

More than 100 personal letters written by the author's grandfather give a first-hand account of Bakersfield's "Great Fire of 1889," the oil boom, and the daily lives of hundreds of hardy folks who lived there more than a century ago.

My first summer in the Sierra / by J. Muir; with illustrations from drawings made by the author in 1869 and from photographs by Herbert W. Gleason.

**The experiences of a forty-niner during a third of a century in
the gold fields / by Charles D. Ferguson.**

What I saw in California / by Edwin Bryant

The old California trail / by Julia Cooley Altrocchi

Up and down California in 1860-1864 : the journal of William H. Brewer / edited by Francis P. Farquhar ; with a new foreword by William Bright

In these collected letters of William H. Brewer, written between 1860-1864, we see California in the mid-nineteenth century. Brewer was a botanist with a background in agriculture who travelled 14,000 miles up and down California as part of the first geological team to survey California.

Legend of Grizzly Adams: California's greatest mountain man / by Richard Dillon

Adventurous life of John Adams, intrepid trapper, explorer and guide of the Old West.

Edward Fitzgerald Beale in California / by Dennis Alward

Shotguns on Sunday / by Joseph E. Doctor

**Train robber's daughter : the melodramatic life of Eva Evans,
1876-1970 / Jay O'Connell**