

HEED's American History Reading List to Complement BJU Press American History Textbook

This list is designed to use independent readers that are engaging historical fiction, biographies, and classics that bring history alive through stories, character, and ideas to complement the Bob Jones curriculum. This list provides broad chronological coverage aligning with BJU's units: Exploration, Colonial, Time, Revolutionary, Early America, Expansion, Slavery, Civil War, Twentieth Century, WWI, WWII, Cold War.

HEED American History Students will be responsible to complete at least **8** of the assigned reading books. Completing **8 or more** of the books will make this World History class an honors World History credit for your transcript. Extra credit will also be given for every book after 8. (As readers, read-a-louds or as audio books).

Parents will be required to verify their students' reading completion as they progress through the year. Students will compete on a team in a year end Jeopardy American History Team competition for friends and family to come and watch during class time in the sanctuary!

Completed by Week	BJU Chapters	Reader	Historical Era	Why It Fits
Summer 1	1–2	Pedro's Journal	Exploration & Early America	Columbus voyage through the eyes of a cabin boy
3	3–4	The Witch of Blackbird Pond	Colonial Life	Colonial New England culture and religion
5	5–6	The Matchlock Gun	French & Indian War / Colonial America	Frontier life during colonial conflicts
7	6–7	Johnny Tremain (Disney movie)	American Revolution	Probably the best Revolutionary War novel for students
9	7–8	Guns for General Washington	Founding Era	Revolutionary War adventure
11	8–9	Carry On, Mr. Bowditch	Constitution & Early Republic	Early American ingenuity and commerce
13	9–10	Streams to the River, River to the Sea	Westward Expansion	Early frontier America
15	10–11	The Captain's Dog	Lewis & Clark / Frontier	Lewis & Clark through Seaman the dog's perspective
17	11–12	Amos Fortune, Free Man	Jacksonian America	Freedom, slavery, and early America
19	13–15	Across Five Aprils	Civil War	Outstanding Civil War family story
21	16–17	The Great Railroad Race	Reconstruction & Westward Expansion	Transcontinental railroad era
23	17–18	The Great Wheel	Industrialization	Engineering and industrial progress
25	19–20	The Wright Brothers	Progressive Era	Innovation and early twentieth century America
27	20–21	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	World War I	Useful backdrop for early twentieth-century America
29	21–22	Out of the Dust	Great Depression	Dust Bowl and Depression
31	22–24	Bonhoffner (student edition) Eric Metaxas	World War II	One of the best WWII stories
32	25–26	God's Smuggler	Cold War	Christianity behind the Iron Curtain