For America's 250th anniversary in 2026, Florida Humanities is proud to support public library programs that explore our nation's history, culture, and founding principles. Pick up a book from one of our suggested reading lists to discover stories from our country's past and be inspired to help shape the future of America for generations to come.

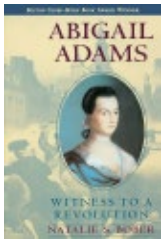
Florida HUMANITIES

Young Adult Reading List

1789: Twelve Authors Explore a Year of Rebellion, Revolution, and Change

edited by Marc Aronson & Susan Bartoletti

This carefully assembled collection brings together essays from twelve writers, each examining the fateful year of 1789, highlighting ideas of personal freedom and human rights.



Abigail Adams: Witness to a Revolution

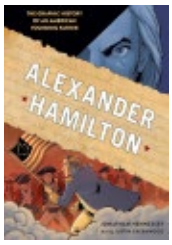
by Natalie S. Bober

A deep dive into the life of a pioneering woman who provided firsthand documentation of the American Revolution and fought to have women represented in the vision for America. Includes bibliography, index, photos, and reference notes.

Alex and Eliza: A Love Story

by Melissa de la Cruz

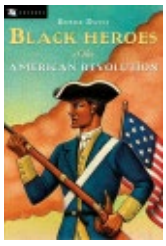
Amidst the turmoil of the American Revolution, a young colonel Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler embark on an epic love story that will alter the course of American history.



Alexander Hamilton: The Graphic History of an American Founding Father

by Jonathan Hennessey

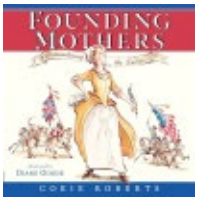
This illustrated biography brings Alexander Hamilton's legacy to life, tracing his rise from obscurity to influence while chronicling his impact on the founding of America.



Black Heroes of the American Revolution

by Burke Davis

Riveting and insightful, this book amplifies the often-overlooked stories of Black soldiers who fought bravely for independence, even though many would never fully benefit from the freedom they helped secure.



Founding Mothers: Remembering the Ladies

by Cokie Roberts

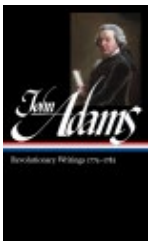
An inspiring testament to the heroic deeds of the women who made exceptional contributions to the founding of the nation. Includes interesting facts, a vibrant timeline, and additional resources for more information.

Hamilton and Peggy! A Revolutionary Friendship

by L.M. Elliott

Youngest sister Peggy Schuyler knows if she were given the opportunity she could shine just as brightly as her beloved older sisters. When a young Alexander Hamilton seeks her help in courting her sister, Eliza, she suddenly is thrust into a situation that could be more than she bargained for.

John Adams: Revolutionary Writings 1775-1783



by John Adams

A collection of essays, letters, and diary writings that detail the American Revolution and the core principles of political thought that became central to the United States.

Rebel Spy

by Veronica Rossi

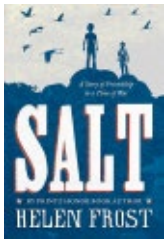
A fast-paced novel following a determined teenage girl drawn into the dangerous world of reconnaissance during the American Revolution. Courtship, loyalty, and secrecy collide as she becomes an unlikely spy for George Washington.

Represent: The Unfinished Fight for the Vote

by Michael Eric Dyson and Marc Favreau

A history of voting rights in the US, from the writing of the Constitution to the current-day fight to protect democracy and the right to vote for all Americans.

Salt: A Story of Friendship in a Time of War



by Helen Frost

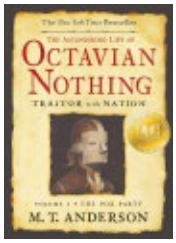
Against the backdrop of the War of 1812, this gripping novel follows two young friends, one from the Miami Tribe and the other from an American trader family. As war strains their friendship, they are forced to confront difficult truths about loyalty and identity.

Scar: A Revolutionary War Tale

by J. Albert Mann

When 16-year-old Noah Daniels finds himself at the center of one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary War, his reluctant kinship with a wounded Native American teenager from the opposing side turns everything he thought he ever knew on its head. Set around the Battle of Minisink, this story reveals the hidden costs and complexity of the Revolutionary War.

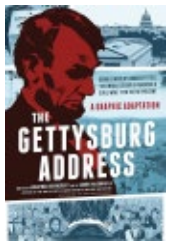
The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume I: The Pox Party



by M.T. Anderson

This National Book Award winning novel reimagines the years leading up to the American Revolution through the eyes of the son of an African princess, exposing the injustice, cruelty, and hypocrisy embedded in the era.

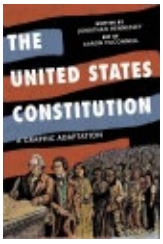
The Gettysburg Address: A Graphic Adaptation



by Jonathan Hennessey

A compelling graphic novel that places the Gettysburg Address within the wider context of the Civil War to illuminate its broader historical ramifications and contrast its impact on American ideals before and after the conflict.

The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation



by Jonathan Hennessey

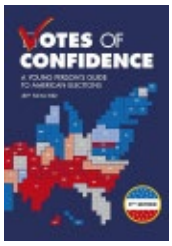
Adeptly crafted, this graphic novel takes readers on a visual journey through the Constitution. Clear explanations and helpful context make the material intriguing, digestible, and informative.

The Year of the Hangman

by Gary Blackwood

In an alternate history where the American Revolution failed, a 15-year-old British boy who gets exiled to the American colonies comes of age and must decide where his loyalties lie.

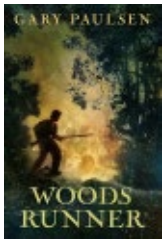
Votes of Confidence: A Young Person's Guide to American Elections



by Jeff Fleischer

An engrossing and inclusive primer that explains American elections, voting rights, and the democratic process for readers in simple terms.

Woods Runner



by Gary Paulsen

When his parents are taken prisoner during a brutal attack by British soldiers and Iroquois, 13-year-old Samuel must embark on a journey to rescue them that will take him all the way to British occupied New York.

Reading list compiled by the Orange County Library System.

ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

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