


# MICHIGAN STORIES



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## Fairy Tales

**J398.2 NOBLE**

**THE LEGEND OF MICHIGAN**

*An old warrior and a young boy travel through the frigid cold of the north to teach the fierce North Wind how to live peacefully with his brothers, allowing the formerly uninhabitable land of Michigan to be settled.*

**J398.2 WARGIN**

**THE LEGEND OF THE PETOSKEY STONE**

*Recounts the life of Petosegay, an Ottawa Indian chief, who gave his name to the small town in northern Michigan—Petoskey--where a unique stone can be found along its shores.*

**J398.2 WARGIN**

**THE LEGEND OF LEELANAU**

*A young maiden is entranced by the Spirit Wood, where playful fairies known as the Pukwudjininees live, and wants to keep visiting there despite being forbidden to do so by her family.*

**J398.2 WARGIN**

**THE LEGEND OF MACKINAC ISLAND**

*Retells the story of the great turtle Makinauk that enlists the aid of other animals to help create the special place known as Mackinac Island.*

**J398.2 WARGIN**

**THE LEGEND OF SLEEPING BEAR**

*In this retelling of an Ojibwe Indian tale, a mother bear loses sight of her two cubs as they all attempt to escape a forest fire by swimming across Lake Michigan.*

**J398.2 WILLEY**

**CLEVER BEATRICE : AN UPPER PENINSULA CONTE**

*A small, but clever young girl outwits a rich giant and wins all his gold.*

**J398.2 WILLEY**

**CLEVER BEATRICE AND THE BEST LITTLE PONY**

*Clever Beatrice seeks out Mister Le Pain, the village bread maker, to come up with a plan to protect her pony from the tiny bearded lutin that magically rides him every night.*

**YF LYTLE**

**THREE RIVERS CROSSING**

*After a fishing accident, seventh-grader Walker Morrison finds himself transported back in time to the nineteenth century of his village of Stony Creek. There, he becomes friends with the Taylor children, his ancestors, for whom he risks his life.*

**YF PANAGOPOULOS**

**MARK OF THE BEAR CLAW**

*Makow in his rage follows a group of warriors headed for the English fort to find out the truth about his lost brother.*

**YF PFITSCH**

**KEEPER OF THE LIGHT**

*After her father's death in 1872, Faith takes over his job as lighthouse keeper on Lake Superior, until her mother decides to move into town, where Faith finds herself stifled by the role society expects her to play.*

**YF SMUCKER**

**TO KEEP THE SOUTH MANITOU LIGHT**

*After her grandfather's death in the fall of 1871, 12-year old Jessie bravely helps her mother take care of the lighthouse her family has kept for generations on South Manitou Island in Lake Michigan, hoping that they will be allowed to continue to live and work there.*

**YF WHELAN**

**SUMMER OF THE WAR**

*In 1942, as her parents work in the war effort in Detroit, 14-year-old Belle and her siblings spend the summer on Michigan's Turtle Island in Lake Huron with their grandparents. Then Belle's 15-year-old cousin, Carrie, joins them. Carrie comes to the island from Paris, fleeing the war. The cosmopolitan Carrie is disdainful of the island's simple lifestyle, and the family is unsettled by their strained relationships and the war in Europe.*

## **Fiction: Grade 5-8**

**YF CURTIS**

**ELIJAH OF BUXTON**

*Elijah, a young African-American boy born free in Canada, travels to Detroit in search of a thief. Much more happens to him and he is forever changed by his encounters with the dark reality of slavery.*

**YF DAY**

**NO CREAM PUFFS**

*Madison is a 12-year-old girl from Michigan in 1980. She doesn't use lipgloss, but she loves to play sports, and joins baseball for the summer, the first girl in Southern Michigan to play on a boys' team. Now she's got a crush on a fellow player, her best friend abandons her for the popular girls, the 'O' on her Hinton's uniform forms a bulls-eye over her left breast, and the boy she punched on the last day of school plans to bean her in the championship game.*

**YF DICAMILLO**

**BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE**

*Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.*

**YF LYTLE**

**MACKINAC PASSAGE: MYSTERY AT ROUND ISLAND LIGHT**

*Pete Jenkins and his friends explore the Round Island Lighthouse and the island after crossing Lake Huron in their dingy, only to find a warning message in their boat and a death threat. Here, their curiosity leads them on the trail of dangerous thieves.*

**YF LYTLE**

**MACKINAC PASSAGE: A SUMMER ADVENTURE**

*Fifteen-year-old Pete Jenkins meets two boys and a girl near his summer cabin in northern Michigan. The new friends find clues linking a hermit writer to a counterfeit money scheme. Setting aside other activities for the intrigue of spying, they follow the elderly man by sail to nearby Mackinac Island. To their horror, the tale turns to one of murder. A test of wills leads them through a series of terrifying obstacles to remarkable conclusion.*

**YF LYTLE**

**A PITCH IN TIME**

*Tells the tale of a modern-day boy who tumbles from his bike and wakes up to find he has traveled back in time to the spring of 1864 in rural Michigan during the Civil War.*

## **Picture books: J Easy**

**JE BERGEL**

**MAIL BY THE PAIL**

*A young girl learns how the birthday card she makes for her father will get to him as he works on a freighter carrying coal on Lake Michigan.*

**JE HOWARD**

**THE LOG CABIN CHRISTMAS**

*Elviry decides that her family really needs to celebrate Christmas even though it will not be the same since her mother died.*

**JE POLACCO**

**ROTTEN RICHIE AND THE ULTIMATE DARE**

*Richie and his younger sister Trisha face off in a contest to see whose hobby is more challenging.*

**JE POLACCO**

**WHEN LIGHTNING COMES IN A JAR**

*A young girl describes the family reunion at her grandmother's house, from the food and baseball and photos to the flickering fireflies on the lawn.*

**JE POLACCO**

**AN ORANGE FOR FRANKIE**

*Frankie and his eight brothers and sisters learn lessons about giving, family, and tradition during a snowy Michigan Christmas long ago.*

**JE WHELAN**

**MACKINAC BRIDGE : THE STORY OF THE FIVE-MILE POEM**

*Although it will mean that their father can no longer make a living running a ferry boat, 13-year-old Mark and his brother Luke are excited about the building of a five-mile bridge across the Straits of Mackinac in Michigan in 1957.*

## **Favorite Series: Grade 3-5**

**JFS ADVENTURE CLUB**

*Six friends from the Adventure club get into more trouble than they can handle.*

**JFS MICHIGAN CHILLERS**

*Stories are all taken place in Michigan towns.*

## **Biographies**

**JB SCIESZKA**

**KNUCKLEHEAD: TALL TALES & MOSTLY TRUE STORIES**

**ABOUT GROWING UP SCIESZKA**

*How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows and jokes told at family dinner. This autobiography of the troubles Scieszka and his bothers get into during their Flint boyhood is hilarious and hard to put down.*

## **Non- Fiction**

**J810.8 W**

**THE MICHIGAN READER FOR BOYS AND GIRLS**

*A collection of stories, poems, facts, riddles, and more all about Michigan.*

**J917.74 A**

**M IS FOR MITTEN: A MICHIGAN ALPHABET BOOK**

*Visit Michigan through each letter of the alphabet, from “apple blossom” to “Detroit Zoo”.*

**J917.74 W**

**LOOK AND SEE WITH ME: MICHIGAN**

*Photos of quaint, picturesque settings let young visitors travel the state of Michigan without leaving home.*

**J977.03 H**

**THE EDMUND FITZGERALD: SONG OF THE BELL**

*Describes the events involved in the shipwreck of the iron-ore freighter S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald in the icy waters of Lake Superior on November 10, 1975, and subsequent expeditions to the wreck site to uncover clues to the mysterious disappearance.*

## **Fiction: Grades 3-5**

**JF ARRATHOON**

**MICHIGAN'S DETROIT**

*When Gilbert sees an organ grinder's monkey in Greektown, he remembers the awful time he had at the Detroit Zoo. The Harambee apes hung him from the highest bar in their cage for being so arrogant.*

**HISTORICAL JF WELLS**

**THE MULLERS FROM MISSOURI**

*Twelve-year-old Herb learns that the railroad cut Dad's job and that means leaving Missouri to move to Detroit where his uncle works for Ford Motor Company. Herb will lose his newspaper route. Will he get another job in Michigan?*

**HISTORICAL JF WHELAN**

**FRIEND ON FREEDOM RIVER**

*On a cold December night, Louis must decide whether to brave the treacherous Detroit River to take a slave family to freedom.*

**HISTORICAL JF WHELAN**

**NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON**

*When she sneaks away to visit her friend, a young girl living on the Michigan frontier is caught up in the forced evacuation of a group of Potawatomi Indians from their tribal lands in the 1840s.*

**HISTORICAL JF WHELAN**

**THE WANIGAN: A LIFE ON THE RIVER**

*In 1878, eleven-year-old Annabel and her parents survive a year of adventure which includes floating downriver in two shacks along with a group of Michigan lumbermen moving logs.*

## **Mysteries**

**MYSTERY JF CURTIS**

**MR. CHICKEE'S FUNNY MONEY**

*When Mr. Chickee gives away a one quadrillion dollar bill, a mystery unfolds whether it is real for Steven and his Flint Future Detectives Club.*

**MYSTERY JF KEEP**

**TRUTH AND SALSA**

*Having moved temporarily from Michigan to live with her grandmother in Mexico, 12-year old Hayley tries to sort out her feelings about her parents' separation while also helping some townsmen who have run into trouble while working in the United States.*

**MYSTERY JF STRICKLAND**

**JOHN BELLAIRS'S LEWIS BARNAVELT IN THE WHISTLE, THE GRAVE, AND THE GHOST**

*In the woods near his home in Michigan, 13-year old Lewis Barnavelt stumbles upon an ancient grave and silver whistle that draw him, his best friend Rose Rita Pottinger, his uncle Jonathan, and their friend Mrs. Zimmermann into a battle with an ancient evil.*

**HISTORICAL JF HARLOW**  
**STAR IN THE STORM**

*In 1912, fearing for the safety of her beloved Newfoundland dog Sirius because of a new law outlawing non-shepherding dogs in her Newfoundland village, 12-year-old Maggie tries to save him by keeping him hidden.*

**HISTORICAL JF HOWARD**  
**THE LOG CABIN WEDDING**

*Although it was her idea to bring together her family and that of a neighboring widow woman to reap the harvest, Elvirey feels her heart “squeeze tight” at the thought of the widow and her father getting married.*

**HISTORICAL JF PANAGOPOULOS**  
**NORTH TO IRON COUNTRY: A DREAM-QUEST ADVENTURE**

*A novel of adventure, humor, and rich historical details*

**HISTORICAL JF PANAGOPOULOS**  
**TRADERS IN TIME: A DREAM-QUEST ADVENTURE**

*Nick saves his brother Chris from the clutches of the evil trader named McDougal.*

**HISTORICAL JF STONE**  
**DUNE SHADOW**

*Thirteen-year-old Serena, her grandmother, and a friend, the only inhabitants left in their 19-century Michigan lumbermill town, face winter with little food and fuel and a sand dune threatening to engulf their house.*

**HISTORICAL JF POLACCO**  
**JANUARY’S SPARROW**

*In Marshall in 1847, slave takers came to take the Crosswhites back to Kentucky. This is the story of what happened on that day the whole town rose up to save the Crosswites.*

**HISTORICAL JF STONE**  
**WHISTLE UP THE BAY**

*Story about sons of Swiss Immigrants eking out a living in Antrim County, Michigan on Grand Traverse Bay*

**HISTORICAL JF WARGIN**  
**THE VOYAGEUR’S PADDLE**

*Cycle of the voyageur Edouard as he travels to Grand Portage, trading furs for goods that he uses to purchase more furs during the winter months from the native villages.*

**JF ARRATHOON**  
**MICHIGAN'S GREENFIELD VILLAGE**

*On Kevin’s advice, Elliot decides to visit the Henry ford Museum so he can learn how the Quadricycle is made.*

**JF ARRATHOON**  
**MICHIGAN'S HOLLAND**

*The Murphy family visits Holland, Michigan. The two animals were left alone on the lawn and compare their impressions of the city.*

**JF ARRATHOON**  
**MICHIGAN'S MACKINAC ISLAND**

*The Murphy goes to Mackinac Island. As usual, Katie Murphy and her stuffed animals get into serious mischief. Kevin Murphy finds he spends most of his holiday worrying about his little sister.*

**JF ARRATHOON**  
**MICHIGAN'S NORTHWEST**

*The Murphy family tours the beautiful northwest coast of Michigan. They visit everything, from Ludington to Harbor Springs. Katie Murthy’s toy wolf, Willie, attracts a real fox. The fox adopts Katie, gets into the Murphy van, and chews up the wires.*

**JF ARRATHOON**  
**MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA**

*Kevin and Katie are at the Upper Peninsula for a surprise vacation. Katie talks Jody into going along. In the middle of Kitch-iti-kipi, Katie drops Jody in the springs as a bear swims toward her and her brother.*

**JF BARSHAW**  
**ELLIE MCDODDLE: HAVE PEN, WILL TRAVEL**

*Eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle illustrates her sketchbook with chronicles of her adventures and mishaps while camping with her cousins, aunt, and uncle.*

**JF BAKER**  
**THE DAY THE GREAT LAKES DRAINED AWAY**

*Explore what would happen if all of the water drained from the Great Lakes and what their lake floors might look.*

**JF BURGESS**  
**OREN BELL: A NOVEL**

*Twelve-year-old Oren and his twin sister Latonya come to terms with the condemned house next door. They believe it is haunted and responsible for many of the tragedies in their lives.*

**JF ELSTER**  
**WHO'S JIM HINES?**

*In 1935 Detroit, Douglas Ford, Jr., a 12-year-old African American boy, helps his dad around the scrap wood yard. Doug's father owns the Douglas Ford Wood Company. While working with his dad, Doug takes the opportunity to unravel the mystery of Jim Hines, who he always hears about but has never seen. In discovering realities of racism in Depression-era Detroit.*

**JF FISHER**  
**THE OUTDOOR MUSEUM: THE MAGIC OF MICHIGAN'S MARSHALL M. FREDERICKS**

*Because she is fascinated by a statue she sees while skating, Abby and her mother spend a day looking at the sculptures of Marshall Fredericks around the city of Detroit, Michigan. Includes information about the sculptor, his work and the sculptural process, as well as a list of sculptures to be seen throughout Michigan and in other Great Lakes states.*

**JF HOWARD**  
**THE TOWER ROOM**

*When she goes to live with her aunt in a small Michigan town, Mary Brooke discovers a secret room that becomes her refuge as she tries to cope with all the changes in her life brought about by her mother's death.*

**JF POLACCO**  
**MRS. MACK**

*The author remembers the summer when she was 10-year old and staying with her father in Michigan where she took riding lessons and became best friends with a perfect horse.*

**JF RICHARDSON**  
**IN GRANDMA'S ATTIC**

*The funny wearable wire contraption hidden in the dusty attic, the century-old schoolchild's slate that belonged to Grandma, an ancient trunk filled with quilt pieces—each with its own special story—and the button basket, a miracle of mysteries.*

**JF STAUFFACHER**  
**HARRY SUE**

*With her mother in jail, Harry Sue begins to believe that her life is destined to be the same and waits for the day her actions will put her away. But after being befriended by a supportive art teacher, sensitive Harry Sue comes to realize that she is not like her mother and begins to desire more for her future than ever before.*

**JF TROTTIER**  
**SISTER TO THE WOLF**

*Cecile is forced to make a difficult decision one night.*

**JF URBAN**  
**A CROOKED KIND OF PERFECT**

*Winner of the 2008 Michigan Mitten award for the best children's book. Zoe longs to play concert piano in Carnegie Hall but starts out with an electric organ. Aware of the differences between her dreams and her reality, she forges ahead and faces the anxiety of entering a competition. In the end, she learns to find perfection in the most imperfect and unique situations.*

## **Historical Fiction**

**HISTORICAL JF CURTIS**  
**CHARLOTTE AVERY ON ISLE ROYALE**

*Young Charlotte and her family spend a year in the 1870's on Isle Royale in Lake Superior, discovering its natural beauty and folk history through adventures with local characters and friends.*

**HISTORICAL JF CURTIS**  
**THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM--1963**

*The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.*

**HISTORICAL JF ERDRICH**  
**THE BIRCHBARK HOUSE**

*Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.*

**HISTORICAL JF GIFF**  
**WILLOW RUN**

*During World War II, after moving with her parents to Willow Run, Michigan, Meggie's father gets a job in the B-24 bomber-building factory. Through her surroundings, 11-year old Meggie learns about different kinds of bravery from all of the people around her.*

**HISTORICAL JF GRINGHUIS**  
**THE YOUNG VOYAGEUR**

*An exciting historical novel of Mackinac*