

## History

There are many good “spines” (living history text) of American history. We know people have different tastes for history, so we wanted to provide you with options. Below are some possible titles with notes about them. We plan to do a four-year cycle of American history, so if you can use one of these books for 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade, it will be the only history spine you’ll need! **For the 2019-2020 school year, 2nd-6th grade will be studying modern American history. 1st graders will study the period of explorers through early settlers.**

***Stories of America from Simply Charlotte Mason:** This spine would be excellent for 2nd-4th grade. It probably only has enough content to last for one school year. It covers 1850-2012 and has 36 chapters, one for each week of the year. This could be a great family history book if you have multiple children between 1st and 4th grade*

***Stories of the Nations from Simply Charlotte Mason:** This spine could work well for 4th-6th grade for this coming year. It covers some British history as well as Western history from 1850-2012. It has 32 chapters, so it could just about last you the whole school year*

***The American Story by Jennifer Armstrong:** This book is written from a more secular perspective and has a couple chapters that you may prefer to skip, so we recommend you read that week’s chapter ahead of time. However, the stories are unique and interesting, it has colorful illustrations, it goes through modern times (2000), and it could be your spine for 3 years with one history story a week. This spine is good for 2nd-4th graders*

***A Child’s First Book of American History by Miers** (from Beautiful Feet or Amazon): This spine does go up to WWII and could potentially be your spine for 3 years. It has nice, colorful illustrations on each page. The writing style may be better for older children*

(The following titles are from Yesterday’s Classics, and many can also be found on Amazon.)

**Mara Pratt’s American History Volumes (series):** There are four volumes in this series, but it stops before WWI. The stories are very engaging and especially good for 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. It does use outdated/racist terms, though, which you may want to edit. It has some old-looking illustrations in it. Volume I roughly matches the history period covered in 1st grade

***America First by Lawton Evans:** Another great living history book, this spine does go through to WWI and could be your spine for three years with one history story a week.*

*.This, too, has some outdated/racist terms in it and is sparse in pictures*  
***This Country of Ours by H.E. Marshall:** The author of this book is actually British and some people say she lacks passion for American history, but this spine is recommended on several Charlotte Mason book lists. There may be some outdated language/stories you may prefer to skip, so we recommend you read that week’s story ahead of time. This spine goes through WWI as well and could be your spine for 3 years. This book is sparse in pictures*