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### **Annotated Bibliography**

#### **Juvenile Historical Fiction Books Depicting the Irish Famine**

***45 authors, 51 books total***

**Avi. *Beyond the Western Sea: Book One.* New York: Orchard Books, 1996.**

**---. *Beyond the Western Sea: Book Two.* New York: Orchard Books, 1996.**

Popular American author. Siblings Maura (15) and Patrick O'Connell (12) are driven by a cruel English landlord from their village in Ireland during the Famine. Action takes place in Liverpool where they meet the landlord's son. They immigrate to Boston. Much of the second volume is set in Lowell, Massachusetts. Father dies. Together the books total 675 pages, with the first 28 pages set in Famine Ireland. Young Adult.

**Bolton, Carole. *The Search of Mary Katherine Mulloy.* New York: Thomas Nelson Inc., 1974.**

American author. Mary Katherine Mulloy (15) leaves behind the Ireland of the 1840s, after suffering incredible hardships. Escaping the Famine by sailing to America she encounters some harrowing experiences in New York. Mary

Katherine's search for Alan, her betrothed, takes her to California's goldfields. Possibly the first book written on Famine! The first 66 out of 192 pages take place in Famine Ireland. Out-of-print book. Young Adult.

**Brandel, Marc. *The Mine of Lost Days*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1974**

English author who lived many years in Ireland and America. On a visit to Ireland, American modern-day Henry Travers (approximately 12) falls into a haunted copper mine, and discovers that he is in Famine Ireland and can travel into the past. Similar to *The Grave*. Fantasy. Out-of-print book. 187 pages.

**Branson, Karen. *The Potato Eaters*. New York: G.P. Putman's Sons, 1979. ---. *Streets of Gold*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1981.**

American author. The O'Connor family struggles in Ireland to survive the Famine, finding that they must split up. Maureen (13) and her siblings eventually make the decision to immigrate to America with their father. Mother is left behind. Similar to *The Coldest Winter*, by Elizabeth Lutzeier. 160 pages. Occasional black and white illustrations. Out-of-print. *Streets of Gold* is the sequel and is mainly an immigration tale. Maureen has painful but ultimately promising experiences in New York. She works as a washerwoman. Mother dies in Ireland. Out-of-print.

**Brocker, Susan. *Journey to the New World: my diary of 1848*. Auckland: Shortland Publications, 1999.**

New Zealand author. Fictional diary of Hannah (approximately 12), a poor Irish orphaned emigrant girl during the Irish Famine. Majority of book details the difficult life on board the bottom decks of the ship. Immigrates to New York. Mainly an immigration tale. Diary format. 61 pages with black and white illustrations.

**Bunting, Eve. *The Haunting of Kildoran Abbey*. New York: Frederick Warne, 1978.**

Prolific American author born in Northern Ireland. Columb and Finn Mullen (15) are homeless and orphan twins who band together with other kids to rob the rich and feed the poor during the Famine. They capture a barge filled with food in route to England and feed their entire village. Adventure with slight ghost story feel. References to Irish language and Native American Indians. Political. Unique with two boys as the main protagonist. 159 pages. Out-of-print.

**Charbonneau, Eileen. *Rachel Le Moyne*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 1998.**

American author. Rachel Le Moyne (20) is mixed-blood Choctaw and Irish, and orphaned. Travels from Oklahoma to Famine Ireland to distribute her own people's corn to the starving. Story inspired by Gerald Keegan diary entry. 124 of 317 pages are set in Famine Ireland. Choctaw/Irish tale. Selected bibliography provided. Young adult/Romance novel.

**Conlon-McKenna, Marita. *Under the Hawthorn Tree*. New York: Holiday**

**House, 1990.**

---. *Fields of Home*. Dublin: The O'Brien Press, 1996.

---. *Wildflower Girl*. Dublin: The O'Brien Press, 1991.

Famous Irish author. First Irish children's book published on the Famine. The trilogy follows the plight of Eily (12), Michael (9), and Peggy O'Driscoll (7), orphaned by the death of their parents during the Famine. Dispossessed and sent to the workhouse, the children escape and begin a long, difficult journey in search of their aunts. In *Wildflower Girl*, Peggy (13) immigrates to Boston. The first book was made into a film. The most popular Irish children's author in Irish history. Historical note provided. *Under the Hawthorn Tree* is 150 pages with some black and white illustrations.

**Cummings, Betty Sue. *Now, Ameriky*. New York: Atheneum, 1979.**

American author. Brigid Ni Clery (19) is driven from her home by an English landlord. She is sent to America to earn enough money to enable the rest of her siblings to join her. After a long, nightmarish journey she arrives in New York. Brigid is eventually orphaned. Out-of-print. 175 pages. Young Adult.

**Denenberg, Barry. *So Far from Home: The Diary of Mary Driscoll, an Irish Mill Girl (Dear America)*. New York: Scholastic, 1997.**

American author. Mary Driscoll (14) leaves her parents and home in Ireland during the Famine. After an arduous journey she joins her aunt in Lowell, Massachusetts and begins work in the mills. Reflects the prejudice and hardships faced by the Irish immigrants. Mary is eventually orphaned. Diary

entry format. Part of “Dear America” series. Unique: only story where the main character dies (in the epilogue). Historical note with illustrations provided. 170 pages.

**Doyle, Malachy. *The Great Hunger*. London: Franklin Watts, 1998.**

Irish author living in the U.K. Siblings Maggie and Art Ryan (school age) experience the Famine in Ireland. They leave home and search for their father. Setting is Northern Ireland. Only book where there is immigration to England. Easy-reader format with many black and white illustrations. Historical note provided. 63 pages.

**Drinkwater, Carol. *The Hunger: The Diary of Phyllis McCormack, Ireland 1845–1847*. London: Scholastic Children’s Books, 2001.**

Irish author who grew up in England. Phyllis McCormack (14) writes about life during the Famine, which ends with immigration to Boston. Mother dies. Political. Diary format. Part of the “My Story” series. Epilogue, historical note, timeline and black and white pictures are provided. 207 pages.

**Fisher, Leonard Everett. *Across the Sea from Galway*. New York: Four Winds Press, 1975.**

Prolific, American author. Siblings Patrick, Sean and Maureen Donovan try to survive with their family on their poor farm under the cruel English landlord. They are forced to leave their parents behind in Ireland to flee starvation by sailing to Boston. Ship crashes and all perish but Patrick. Unusual in that the

children die, not the parents. Dismal ending. Stark black and white illustrations by author. Out-of print. 103 pages.

**Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Nory Ryan's Song*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2000.**

American, Newbery Honor award winning author of Irish ancestry. The Ryan family is motherless and Nory (12) struggles to survive the Famine with her younger siblings while her father works as a fisherman. One by one the children leave for New York. Physical and emotional horrors of the Famine described. Glossary and note to reader provided. 149 pages.

**Harrison, Cora. *The Famine Secret*. Dublin: Wolfhound Press, 1998.**

Irish author. Fiona and Deirdre McMahon (11) are orphaned twins who have lost their parents to Famine fever. The children are sent to the workhouse. A survival tale. Ends with thoughts of immigration to England. Part of the "Drumshee Timeline" series. Some black and white illustrations. 123 pages.

**Hazen, Barbara Shook. *Katie's Wish*. New York: Dial Books, 2002.**

Popular American author with Irish and English parents. Katie (approximately 6) wishes for her potatoes to disappear during dinner, and feels she caused the Famine in Ireland. Immigrates to Boston. Mother is dead. Author's note provided. Color picture book illustrated by Caldecott Medal winner, Emily Arnold McCully.

**Heneghan, James. *The Grave*. New York: Frances Foster Books, 2000.**

Canadian author born in England . Tom Mullen (13) is orphaned and lives in foster homes in Liverpool in the 1970s, falls into a grave and is sent back to Famine Ireland in the 1840s. Time travel. Ghost story feel - similar to *Black Harvest* by Ann Pilling. Unique with a male protagonist and written in the first person. Author's note provided. Young Adult. 245 pages.

**Kositsky, Lynne. *Rebecca's Flame*. Montreal: Roussan Publishers Inc., 1998.**

Canadian author. Rebecca (15) is middle-class and Jewish, living in a Dublin-like city with her father, her mother is dead. She falls in love with a poor Catholic boy and eventually immigrates to Canada with him. Unique setting, only book that takes place in urban Ireland. Only novel that features a Jewish main character. Young Adult. 140 pages.

**Lally, Soibhne. *The Hungry Wind*. Dublin: Poolbeg Press, 1997.**

Irish author. Myrya (13) and Breege (12) Gilbride are orphaned sisters turned out of their homes by a greedy landlord. They are sent to the workhouse, which is filled with disease and fever. Unique in that sisters immigrate to Australia. Young Adult. 202 pages.

**Langford, Sondra Gordon. *Red Bird of Ireland*. New York: Atheneum, 1983.**

American author. Aderyn Moynihan (13) survives the horrors of the Famine after her father is forced to leave Ireland when he is unjustly accused in burning the landlord's barn. Father flees to Canada and family is eventually reunited in New York. Political. Glossary provided. Out-of-print. Young Adult. 175 pages.

**Lutzeier, Elizabeth. *Bound for America*. London: Oxford University Press, 2000.**  
**---. *The Coldest Winter*. London: Oxford University Press, 1991.**

English author with Irish parents. Book and sequel. Eamonn Kennedy (11) and his family are evicted from their home during the Famine by a English soldiers. They enter the world of workhouses and fever-wards during Ireland's severest winter. Father dies. The first book concluded with Eamonn and his remaining family members fleeing to America. The sequel reveals the horrors of life on board a coffin ship and at Grosse Isle in Canada, where the mother dies. Eventually Eamonn ends up in Boston. The horrible dangers of work in the Massachusetts mills are also described. Unique with a male protagonist. 153 and 167 pages.

**Lyons, Mary E. *Knockabeg: A Famine Tale*. Boston: Houghton Mufflin, 2001.**

American author of Irish ancestry. Selfish faeries and fantastic creatures help Eamonn (11) survive the Famine. Eamonn and his sister become orphans. Tale includes magic and adventure. Story ends with Eamonn immigrating to the

“Great Land” (America). Unique with male protagonist and use of fantasy.  
 Author’s note and glossary provided. 118 pages.

**MacGrory, Yvonne. *The Quest of the Ruby Ring*. Dublin: The Children’s Press, 1999.**

Irish author. Time travel book where modern day Emma Martin (11) is transported back to the Famine Ireland and meets two other young females at a workhouse. “Ruby Ring” series. 123 pages.

**McCormack, Colette. *Mary-Anne’s Famine*. Cork: Attic Press, 1994.  
 ---. *After the Famine*. Dublin: Attic Press, 1995.**

Irish author. The first book details Mary-Anne Joyce (14) surviving the Famine in Galway. She escapes starvation by taking a ‘coffin ship’ to New York. Diary entry format. The second book details Mary-Anne building a life in America, which includes Irish discrimination. A third “Mary-Anne” book is in the works. Glossary provided. 141 pages.

**McKeown, Arthur. *Famine*. Dublin: Poolbeg, 1997.**

Northern Irish author. Maggie Campbell (8) and her father Joe must leave their farm during the Famine and survive by sailing to America. Setting takes place in Northern Ireland. Easy reader chapter book with black and white illustrations. 43 pages.

**Morpurgo, Michael. *Twist of Gold*. London: Kaye and Ward Ltd., 1983.**

English author. Sean (13) and Annie (10) are the only two surviving children of the O'Brien family during the Famine. They set off to find their father in California. Although believed to be orphans, ending reveals that they are not. Settings somewhat similar to Carol Bolton's novel. First 40 of 223 pages are set in Famine Ireland.

**Pastore, Clare. *A Voyage from Ireland: Fiona McGilray's Story*. New York: Berkley Jam Books, 2001.**

American author. Fiona (12) and Patrick McGilray are forced to emigrate from Ireland during the Famine. Father dies. Fiona experiences a horrible ocean voyage. She arrives in Boston and in Lowell finds work and searches for her relations. Encounters anti-Irish prejudice. "Journey to America" series. Mainly an immigration tale. Epilogue and author's note provided. 184 pages.

**Perez, Norah A. *The Passage*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1975.**

Canadian author with Irish ancestors. Recounts the inhuman conditions endured by Cathleen O'Foalain (14) during the ocean crossing to Canada to escape the Famine. Mainly an immigration tale with the ship as the setting. Only book with permanent immigration to Canada. Similar to *Now, Ameriky* and *Bound for America*. Young Adult. 191 pages.

**Pilling, Ann. *Black Harvest*. London: Armada, 1983.**

English author. Ghosts of a family, which died in the Famine, possess three

modern day English children, Colin, Prill (13)), and Oliver (10) Blakeman, while vacationing in Ireland. Similar to *The Grave*, by James Heneghan. Inspired by *The Great Hunger* by Cecil Woodham Smith. Ghost story. Postscript provided. 192 pages.

**Ransom, Candice F. *Kathleen*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1985.**

American author. The story begins with orphaned Kathleen O'Connor (16) immigrating to Boston on a coffin ship to escape the Famine in Ireland. She experiences the usual discrimination in America while working as a maid. Young

Adult/Romance. 360 pages.

**Reiff, Tana. *Hungry No More*. Belmont, California: David S. Lake Publishers, 1989.**

John and Mary McGee have a farm and family in Famine Ireland, immigrate to Boston and experience hardships. Mainly an immigration tale. Unique with parents as the main protagonists. Easy reader book, part of the "Hopes and Dreams" series. End of chapter questions provided. 76 pages.

**Ross, David. *Children of the Great Hunger*. New Lanark, Scotland: Waverley Books Ltd., 2002.**

Scottish author. Mary O'Donnell (approximately 12) survives the Famine despite losing her parents and siblings. Unique - Mary immigrates to Canada. Written for younger children, this small book has colorful illustrations.

Author's note provided. Part of the "Bradán series" based on Irish history. 28 pages.

**Schneider, Mical. *Annie Quinn in America*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publishing Group, 2001.**

American author. Annie Quinn (12), survives the Famine by immigrating to New York. Joins older sister as a servant and earns money to bring the rest of their family to America. Father is dead. In America they experience much hardship. Famine abandoned by page 28 of 246, but small references to that hardship later on in story. Some black and white illustrations.

**Smith, Michael. *Boston! Boston!* Dublin: Poolbeg Press, 1997.**

New Zealand author of English and Irish parents. Story centers on Kate O'Malley (14), who with her brother Liam (16) and friend stand up to evicting bailiffs during the Famine. Shows the hardships (Liam dies), cruelties, and injustices of the Famine. Immigrates to Boston. Much suffering in Grosse Isle, Canada and America. Prologue provided. Young Adult book with romance. 120 of 263 pages take place in Famine Ireland.

**Stengel, Joyce A. *Katie O'*. Dublin: Poolbeg Press, 2000.**

American author. Katie O'Brien (14) survives the Famine by immigrating to

Boston where she experiences the typical hardships of being an Irish immigrant. Unique in that both parents survive. Mainly an immigration tale with 6 of 181 pages taking place in Famine Ireland.

**Wilson, Laura. *How I Survived the Irish Famine: The Journal of Mary O'Flynn*. New York: Harper Collins, 2001.**

English author. Mary O'Flynn (12) details life in the Famine through dairy entries.

Immigrates to New York. Introduction, afterword, and glossary provided. Unique

- larger format and illustrated with huge color photographs on each page. "Time Travelers" series. 36 pages.

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**Annotated bibliography of children's books that mention famine in Ireland or merely reference the Great Irish Famine**

**Dagger, Claire. *An phluais ama*. Indreabhan, Conamara: Clo' Iar-Chonnachta, 1999.**

Irish author. Juvenile book written in Irish on the Famine. Discovered on the Library of Congress web site. Illustrated. 76 pages.

**Fitzpatrick, Marie-Louise. *The Long March: A Famine Gift for Ireland.* Dublin: Wolfhound Press, 1999.**

Irish author. Part history, part parable, this picture book tells the true story of how the impoverished Choctaw Indians sent aid in 1847 to help the Irish during the Famine. Unique - primarily a Native American Indian story. Beautiful black and white illustrations by author. Forward and author's note provided. 28 pages.

**Hall, Aylmer. *Beware of Captain Moonlight.* New York: Thomas Nelson Inc., 1969.**

English author of Irish parents. Set in 1765 Ireland, Larry O'Driscoll (15) is considered orphaned and witnesses poverty and famine around the castle he lives in. He becomes involved with the Whiteboys, a society sworn to resist by any means the oppression of the landlords. Adventure story. 224 pages.

**Hodges, Margaret. *Saint Patrick and the Peddler.* New York: Orchard Books, 1993.**

American author of Irish ancestry. Saint Patrick comes to a poor peddler in his dreams and he finds a fortune. Minor reference to Famine:

“The next year the potato crop failed, and hard times came to the peddler for people were too poor to buy needles and pins...”

Color picture book. 30 pages.

**Holland, Isabelle. *Behind the Lines.* New York: Scholastic Inc., 1994.**

American (?) author born in Switzerland. Set in 1863, Katie O'Farrell (14 ) is a

maid in New York and experiences the New York City draft riots and the Civil War. Her mother died in the Famine and there are many references to the horrid

English:

“At least the Southern plantation people *feed* their slaves - after all, the slaves are their property! Why shouldn't they? The English landlords, far from feeding us, turned us off our land and stole our food - our corn and pigs and cattle - and shipped them over to England. And when the famine came and we were starving they pushed us out to die. Do you think that's better?” (19).

Young Adult. 194 pages.

**Judson, Clara Ingram. *Michael's Victory*. New York: Follett Publishing Company, 1946.**

American (?) author. Set in 1854, Michael O'Hara (about 10 - 14) deals with the tough canal boys who resent the Irish immigrants who are building the new railroad. Small references to the Famine:

“He had got a living our of five poor acres in western Ireland until the potato famine in 1845. Two more years of the potato blight made him fear that his family would starve like many others” (9).

Part of the “They Came From” books. Unique - early publication date. 192 pages.

**Kroll, Steven. *Mary McLean and the St. Patrick's Day Parade*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1991.**

American author. Set in the 1850s, Mary McLean (about 10) escapes Famine Ireland with her family and settles in New York where she gets to march in the St. Patrick's Day parade. Minor reference to the Famine:

“Mary McLean’s father was a potato farmer in Ireland. When the crop began to fail year after year, when the potatoes came up out of the ground healthy and almost at once turned black and rotten, the McLean’s had to give up their little thatched hut in Donegal” (1).

Author’s note provided. Beautiful color picture book. 28 pages.

**Ni Shuilleabhain, Siobhan. *Eoghan. Connemara: Clolar-Chonnachta*, 1992.**

Irish author. Title translates to Owen. Famine book written for children in the Irish language.

**Yezerki, Thomas F. *Together in Pinecone Patch*. New York (?): Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1998.**

American author with Irish ancestry. Set in the 1880s, Keara Buckley arrives in Pinecone Patch, Pennsylvania as a result of the Irish Famine. She meets and marries Stephan Pazik who is an immigrant from Poland. Deals with ethnic prejudices. Color picture book. 32 pages.