Michigan Time Traveler

An educational supplement produced by Lansing Newspapers In Education, Inc. and the Michigan Historical Center Foundation.

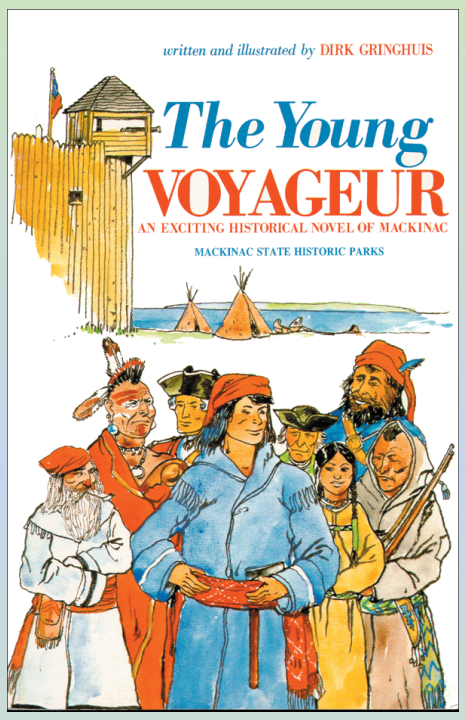
KIDS' History

Be a Michigan Reader

March is Reading Month, and the Time Traveler has found Michigan books about monsters and Mackinac, voyageurs and villains, the past and the present.

Michigan Authors

Michigan authors have been writing about the Great Lakes area for a long time. Marguerite di Angeli based *Copper-Toed Boots*, published in 1938, on her own family in Lapeer in the 1870s. Holling Clancy Holling included all the Great Lakes when he wrote *Paddle to the Sea* in 1941. Van Buren County author and artist Genevieve Cross wrote about the "Fruit Belt Train" that ran between Kalamazoo and South Haven in *The Train That Lost Its Whistle* in 1947. Patricia Polacco, who lives on her family farm in Union City, gets ideas for many of her books from family memories.



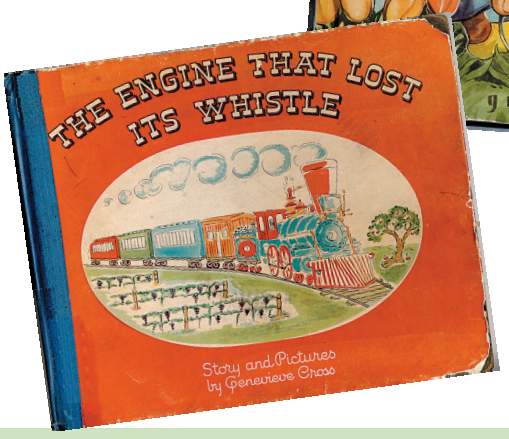
Dirk Gringhuis–who lived in Grand Rapids, Holland and East Lansing–wrote *Tulip Time* about Holland's famous festival in 1951. He wrote *The Young Voyageur*–about Michigan's fur-trading days–in 1955. The illustration is from *The Young Voyageur* (© Mackinac State Historic Parks).

Wizards Were Hot 100 Years Ago!

L. Frank Baum spent every summer at a waterfront cottage near Holland, Michigan, from 1898 through 1910. He spent his time writing, relaxing and having fun with his family. In 1900 he published *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

Baum was one of the first authors to write for kids. Until then most kids read stories that were based on Greek and Roman myths, European fairy tales and the Bible. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was so popular that there were many sequels, including *The Road to Oz* and *The Emerald City of Oz*. After Baum died in 1919, other authors also wrote Oz books. Michigan illustrator and author Dirk Gringhuis illustrated *The Hidden Valley of Oz* written by Rachel R. Cosgrove in 1951.

The wizard in Oz wasn't anything like the wizards in the Harry Potter books. But the Oz stories had strange lands and creatures. There were Oz and the Emerald City and the lands of people called Winkies, Gillikins, Munchkins and Quadlings. Dorothy met the Tin Woodman, the Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion. They had to overcome scary obstacles, including witches, the Deadly Poppy Field, Fighting Trees, the Kalidahs and the Winged Monkeys.



Michigan Chillers author Johnathan Rand meets with fans at the Read Across American celebration at the Michigan Library and Historical Center.

What's Hot Today?

Michiganian Johnathan Rand writes the *Michigan Chillers*, a series of books with titles that include *Mayhem on Mackinac Island* and *Poltergeists of Petoskey*. His new *American Chillers* series begins with *Michigan Mega Monsters*. He visited the Michigan Library and Historical Center for the Read Across America celebration on March 2.

Janie Lynn Panagopoulos writes stories in which today's kids dream themselves back in time. Some of her books are *Traders in Time, Erie Trail West, A Place Called Home, Train to Midnight* and *Little Ship Under Full Sail*. There are lots of books set on Mackinac Island. Gloria Whelan has written *Once on This Island, Farewell to the Island*, and *Return to the Island*. Robert A. Lytle's Mackinac Passage series includes *The General's Treasure, A Summer Adventure* and *The Boathouse Mystery*.

Time Line of Kids' Books

Reading has its own history. What we like changes through time. Here are some books that have been important in the history of children's literature. Have you read any of them?

1690 *The New England Primer*

1729 *Tales of Mother Goose,* Perrault (first English translation)

1744 *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book,* John Newbery

1822 *A Visit from Saint Nicholas,* Clement C. Moore

1865 *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland,* Lewis Carroll

1867 *Little Women,* Louisa May Alcott

1884 *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,* Mark Twain

1900 *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz,* L. Frank Baum

1908 *The Wind in the Willows,* Kenneth Grahame

1926 *Winnie-the-Pooh,* A. A. Milne

1932 *Little House in the Big Woods,* Laura Ingalls Wilder

1937 *The Hobbit*, J. R. R. Tolkien

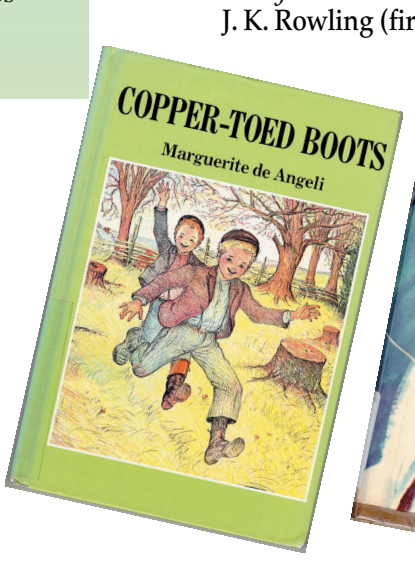
1952 *Charlotte's Web,* E. B. White

1957 *The Cat in the Hat,* Dr. Seuss

1964 *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,* Roald Dahl

1970 *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret,* Judy Blume

1998 *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone,* J. K. Rowling (first U. S. edition)



Things to Do

• Rediscover America (especially Michigan!) at your library during National Library Week, April 14-20, 2002.

• Talk about this with your friends: Which is more fun–to read the book before you see the movie made from it, or to see the movie first? Have you seen the *Wizard of Oz*? Have you ever read the book? Did you see the movie of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*? Did you read the book first?

On-line:

• Find Michigan authors at "Stuff about Michigan": www.michiganhistory.org/michinfo/people.

• Choose a book to read from the list of Michigan-related kids' books at Central Michigan University's Clarke Historical Library: www.lib.cmich.edu/clarke/childlit.htm.

• See some really old children's books from the Library of Michigan's Rare Books collection: http://www.libraryofmichigan.org/collections/rareexhibit/childrensbookexhibit.htm

Della Thompson Lutes and James Corrothers, two of five Michigan teenagers featured in the "Growing Up in Michigan, 1880-1895" exhibit at the Michigan Historical Museum became published authors. BIG History program students Tommy Keys and Nikki Riggs from Susan Seyfarth's 3rd grade at Wilcox Elementary School, Holt, look at school books and *The Country Kitchen* by Lutes in the one-room school.

At the Michigan Historical Museum

• Check out the "Bookstore" window in the 1920s Street Scene. Learn more about the Michigan authors whose books you see there.

• Find out about Della Lutes in "Growing Up in Michigan, 1885 to 1900." Where did she get ideas for the books she wrote as an adult?

The Michigan Historical Museum, 717 W. Allegan St., Lansing is located two blocks west of the Capitol in downtown Lansing. Museum admission is free. Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. The museum telephone hotline: (517) 373-3559. The museum is part of the Michigan Historical Center, Department of History, Arts and Libraries. Visit us on the Web: www.michiganhistory.org.

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