

Respect and protect the Earth because we are all connected: Kaya's story



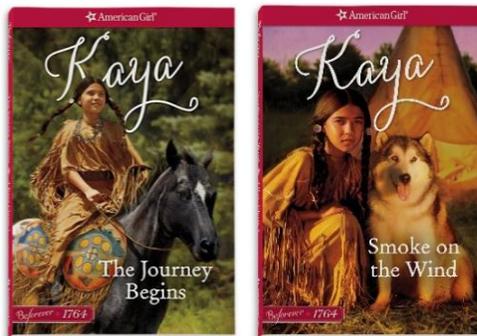
A powerful spirit

A daring race. An enemy raid. A sister lost. In *The Journey Begins*, the first book of the Kaya series, her heart and mind are both tested. From a careless act that earns her a shameful nickname to escaping capture while making a heartbreaking choice, Kaya must learn to grow stronger from her mistakes.



Facing down fear

Smoke on the Wind, the second book in her series, begins with Kaya recovering from a painful loss. Adding to her anguish is the thought that an impending wedding could change her family. Yet the return of Kaya's lost sister and loyal horse lifts her spirits—until a new threat puts Kaya in danger like never before.



Guidance for readers today

Honor, compassion, inner strength—through her stories, Kaya becomes a role model for readers confronted with their own obstacles and opportunities:

Respect for nature. Like her people, Kaya lives with gratitude for the natural world, nursing injured animals, using only what she needs, and giving thanks for the food she eats.

Caring for others. While being held captive by an enemy tribe, Kaya's understanding of suffering deepens, and so does her empathy and desire to help.

Courage during crisis. From slavery to starvation to forest fires, Kaya encounters many frightening challenges but knows she has it within herself to overcome them.



Step onto the stage and let your heart take the lead: Rebecca's story



Real-life drama

In *The Sound of the Applause*, Rebecca Rubin—a first generation American Girl growing up in a big Jewish family in New York City in 1914—is excited when she learns her cousin Ana's family hopes to migrate from Russia, too. But the ship voyage will be dangerous—and expensive. Rebecca hopes her secret plan to raise money smooths rough waters and helps her relatives escape Russia.



A true star

Rebecca's dream of becoming an actress gets an unexpected boost when she visits a motion picture studio with her cousin Max and is offered the chance to be in front of the camera. Now she must decide whether to take this big break, or follow her traditional parents' wishes for her to stay out of the spotlight.



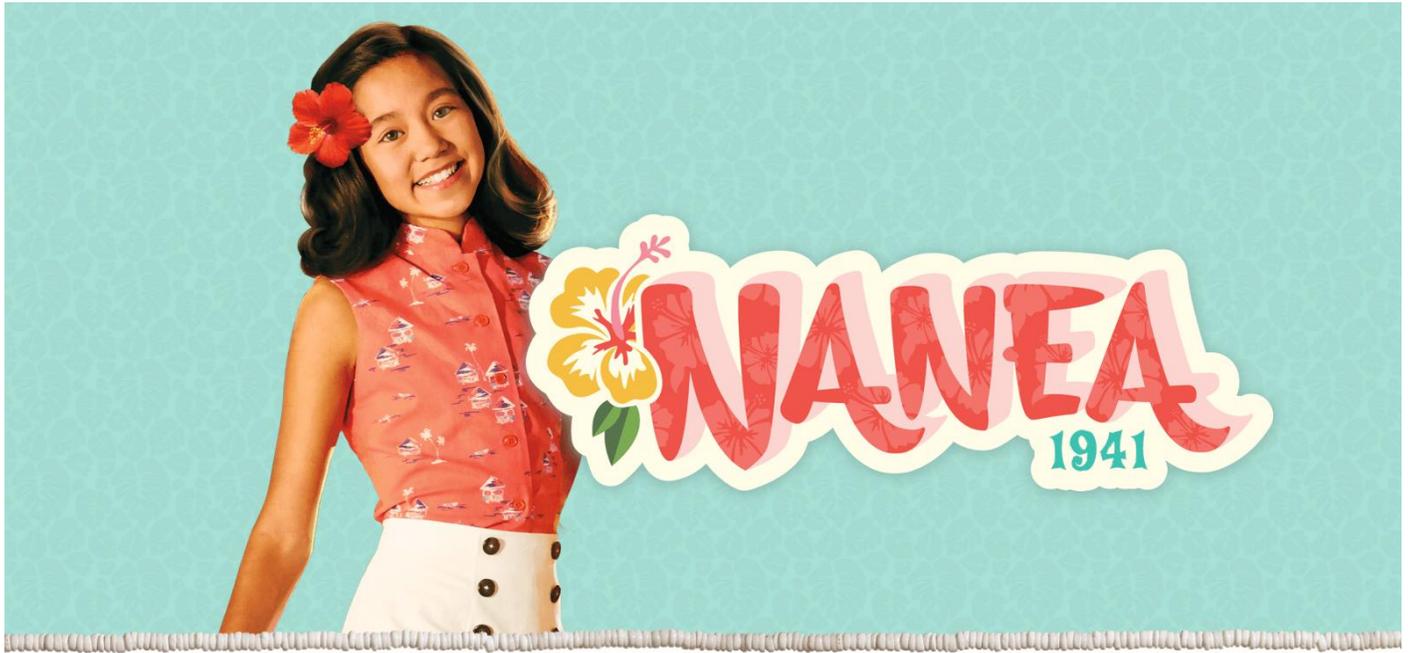
Guidance for readers today

By exemplifying the Jewish tradition of helping others, Rebecca plays a positive role in others' lives with qualities every reader can aspire to:

Integrity. By backing up her beliefs and actions, Rebecca meets life's challenges boldly and inspires readers today to act on their principles.

Compassion. Rebecca's decision to share the with her cousin during a school performance proves that one simple act of kindness makes a big difference to someone else.

Chutzpah. This Yiddish word loosely translates as "confidence," something Rebecca displays when she speaks up about poor working conditions at a local sweatshop.



When fear strikes, let the aloha spirit be your guide: Nanea's story



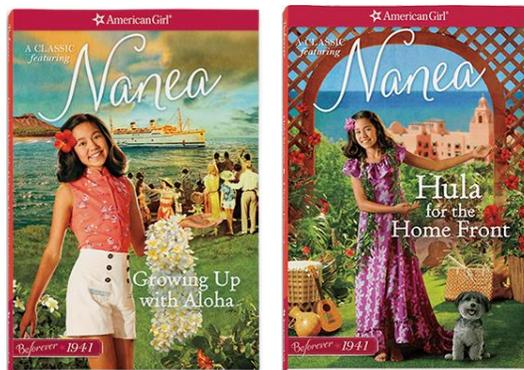
In dark times, good deeds shine brighter

In *Growing Up with Aloha*, Nanea's world is turned upside down when Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, officially bringing the U.S. into World War Two. Nanea worries the people she loves will soon be leaving the island. To cope with her sadness, she finds opportunities to perform *kokua* ("good deeds") for those in need.



Taking steps toward healing

As *Hula for the Home Front* begins, Nanea faces constant reminders of the war—from gas masks and ID cards to curfews and nightly blackouts. Worst of all, her brother won't stop talking about joining the Army. In the swirl of changes, Nanea turns to hula. Dancing fills her with hope, and she soon discovers its healing power for others.



Guidance for readers today

Through connection, tolerance, and kindness, Nanea showcases how everyone can overcome loss and inspire others to carry on:

A spirit of togetherness. Nanea follows the concept of aloha—the idea that everyone is connected—to help bring her community together after the war begins.

Celebrating diversity. Even though suspicion rises about those of Japanese descent on the island, Nanea is loyal to her friends and defends their patriotism.

Showing compassion. When misunderstandings arise with a new classmate, Nanea decides to reach out and learn both sides of the story.



Stay true to you and don't be afraid to stand out: Maryellen's story



Ideas aplenty

In *The One and Only*, Maryellen is sure all the plans and plots she dreams up can come true. From giving her house an eye-popping makeover to cutting her hair all on her own to manufacturing what she hopes is a magical Christmas, Maryellen wants nothing more than to make an impact.



Ready to soar

When the action starts in *Taking Off*, Maryellen has already helped her two best friends overcome prejudice against a new girl. Together, they all put on a play to support a new polio vaccine—even though Maryellen ends up with stage fright. Only when she shows her creativity during a flying-machine contest does her voice finally shine through.



Guidance for readers today

Standing out, using imagination, teaming up—through her stories, Maryellen becomes a role model for readers confronted with their own obstacles and opportunities:

Being different. Even though her friends think it's strange, Maryellen builds a close connection with a new Italian girl who joins her class.

Celebrating creativity. Maryellen's inventive mind is always looking for fresh ways to be original, and she's never discouraged when her ideas don't go as planned.

Working together. When the boys in the Science Club don't want to listen to Maryellen, she enlists her friends—and their thoughts—into challenging for the top spot in a contest.



Lift your voice in the fight for fairness and freedom: Melody's story



Standing up for justice

When *No Ordinary Sound* starts, Melody discovers her sister can't even interview for a bank job because of her skin color. That sets Melody on a path toward seeking justice—from closing her savings account at the bank in protest to joining a march for freedom. But it's only after a tragedy that Melody finds the voice to really sing out.



Working in unison

Never Stop Singing picks up with Melody rising to a challenge by making a difference in her own neighborhood. After she helps lift her community's spirits, she lifts her voice once again, stepping into the spotlight as a backup singer in her brother's band.



Guidance for readers today

With all the bravery in her heart, Melody confronts the challenges in her life and teaches readers to do the same, as both a leader and a partner:

Courage in the face of conflict. After a church bombing in Alabama, Melody must summon all her strength to perform a tribute in front of her own congregation.

Building harmony. Melody realizes that uniting voices is important for more than just singing, so she marches with others to demand equality and justice throughout the country.

Growing community. When her pastor asks how everyone can do more, Melody leads the charge to fix up a neighborhood playground and plant a garden.



Stand up for girls' rights and make a difference: Julie's story



Taking charge in changing times

As *The Big Break* begins, Julie is struggling with her parents' divorce, which means she must move to a new house, start over at a new school, and find new friends. Yet Julie's filled with hope when she thinks there's the chance to play basketball on the school team—until she learns it's just for boys. Only then does Julie realize she has the power to bring about change.



Rising to the challenge

In *Soaring High*, Julie continues her campaign for change. First, she changes minds to help raise funds and supplies in support of a family of endangered bald eagles. Then Julie runs for student body president to improve a system she feels could be more useful. But is her bold idea enough to turn the vote in her direction?



Guidance for readers today

By role modeling resilience, activism, and leadership in her stories, Julie helps readers understand they can face any situation:

Bouncing back. When tested by adversity, whether it's at school or with her family, Julie's always optimistic she'll figure out a positive side to the changes in her life.

Taking a stand. If there's a cause Julie believes in, she summons the courage to make her viewpoint known and act upon it.

An example for all. Despite facing criticism, Julie is willing to risk failure in order to make things right.