

Historical Fiction Genre Study



Historical Fiction - Staff Picks -

F Allende *Daughter of Fortune*
The story of a young woman's quest for love and fortune during the California Gold Rush in San Francisco.
By Isabel Allende ****

YA F Alvarez *Before We were Free*
In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo.
By Julia Alveraz ****

F Alvarez *In the Time of the Butterflies*
Dede Mirabel tells about her three sisters, Minerva, Patria, and Maria Teresa, who became martyrs during the liberation of the Dominican Republic from Trujillo in 1960.
By Julia Alveraz ****

YA F Auch *Ashes of Roses*
Sixteen-year-old Margaret Rose Nolan, newly arrived from Ireland, finds work at New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Factory shortly before the 1911 fire in which 146 employees died.
By Mary Jane Auch *****

YA F Bloss *The Gathering of Days*
The journal of a fourteen-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend.
By Joan W. Bloss ***

F Buck *The Good Earth*
Wang Lung, a Chinese peasant, rises from poverty to become a rich landowner with the aid of his patient wife in the 1920s.
By Pearl S. Buck ****

F Chevalier *Girl with a Pearl Earring*
A poor Seventeenth century servant girl knows her place in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer, but when he begins to paint her, nasty whispers and rumors circulate throughout the town.
By Tracy Chevalier ****

F Clark *Mount Vernon Love Story*
Follows the story of George Washington from the time he steps down from the presidency to return with Martha to his beloved Mount Vernon home, a period during which the couple shares a renewal of feelings from the early years of their marriage.
By Mary Higgins Clark *****

F Dallas *The Persian Pickle Club*
The Persian Pickle Club is the very fabric of life in a small depression-era Kansas farming town. Rita, a big city girl, joins the club but doesn't understand the group until she investigates the mysterious murder of a club member's husband and discovers how fiercely loyal the club members really are.
By Sandra Dallas ***

F Diamant *The Red Tent*
This sweeping novel reveals the traditions and turmoil of ancient womanhood. Dinah, the only daughter of Jacob tells her story beginning with that of her mothers: Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, and Bilhah.
By Anita Diamant ***

F Faulks *On Green Dolphin Street*
In 1960, Mary van der Linden, a loyal wife and mother approaching forty, moves with her family from London to Washington, D.C., where she escapes her narrow world for the larger issues of politics and the Cold War with the help of Frank, a New York journalist.
By Sebastian Faulks ****

F Forster *A Passage to India*
Two women come to Chandrapore, India, and their lack of understanding of the culture causes one of them to make an unjust accusation.
By E.M. Forster ***

F Graves *I, Claudius*
The story of the Emperor Claudius, a historian, is finally told when his famous lost autobiography is located.
By Robert Grave ***

YA F Holt ***When Zachary Beaver
Came to Town***

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

By Kimberly Willis Holt *****

F Harris ***Pompeii***

When the aqueduct around the Bay of Naples fails, Roman engineer Marius Primus heads to the slopes of Mount Vesuvius to investigate, only to come face to face with an impending catastrophe.

By Robert Harris *****

F Hughes ***Soldier Boys***

Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.

By Dean Hughes *****

YA F Jinks ***Pagan's Crusade***

In Twelfth century Jerusalem, orphaned sixteen-year-old Pagan is assigned to work for Lord Roland, a Templar knight, as Saladin's armies close in on the Holy City.

By Catherine Jinks *****

F Kidd ***The Secret Life of Bees***

After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.

By Sue Monk Kidd *****

F Laker ***The Golden Tulip***

Shortly before she begins an apprenticeship with Jan Vermeer, Francesca discovers that her father, desperate for money to settle his debts, has acquired a wealthy patron who demands Francesca as collateral for a loan.

By Rosalind Laker *****

YA F Lowry ***Number the Stars***

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

By Lois Lowry *****

YA F Meyer ***Mary, Bloody Mary***

Mary Tudor, who would reign briefly as Queen of England during the mid Sixteenth century, tells the story of her troubled childhood as daughter of King Henry VIII.

By Carolyn Meyer *****

YA F Namioka ***Ties That Bind,
Ties That Break***

Ailin's life takes a different turn when she defies the traditions of upper class Chinese society by refusing to have her feet bound.

By Lensey Namioka *****

F O'Brian ***Master and Commander***

The opening salvo of the adventures of Captain Jack Aubrey and his friend, surgeon Stephen Maturin set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars.

By Patrick O'Brian ***

MYST Perry ***The Cater Street
Hangman***

Careless of both murder and manners, two determinedly unconventional young sisters ignore Victorian mores and actively join the police investigation into the murder of their servant girl.

By Anne Perry *****

MYST Peters ***A Morbid Taste for Bones***

The prior of Shrewsbury wants the miraculous bones of Saint Winifred, and he sends Brother Cadfael to claim them from a small Welsh town.

By Ellis Peters ***

YA F Pullman ***The Ruby in the Smoke***

In Nineteenth century London, sixteen-year-old Sally Lockhart, a recent orphan, becomes involved in a deadly search for a mysterious ruby.

By Philip Pullman *****

F Shaara ***The Killer Angels***

Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet tell the Southern view of the battle at Gettysburg while Colonel Joshua Chamberlain and General John Buford present the Northern view.

By Michael Shaara *****

YA F Taylor ***Roll of Thunder,
Hear My Cry***

A Black family living in the South during the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand.

By Mildred D. Taylor *****

