

Compiled by Amber Lowe and Dina Wyatt with help from the following sources:

Herald, Diana Tixier. *Genreflecting: a Guide to Reading Interests in Genre Fiction*. 5th ed.

Herald, Diana Tixier. *Teen Genreflecting*. 2nd ed.

Saricks, Joyce G. *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction*.

Adamson, Lynda G. *American Historical Fiction*.

Burt, Daniel S. *What Historical Novel Do I Read Next?*.

Fresno Library Historical Fiction Booklist

www.fresnolibrary.org/teen/bn/history.pdf

(accessed 7 September 2004).

Infoplease Timeline

www.infoplease.com

(accessed 17 September 2004).

Multnomah County Library Historical Fic. Booklist

www.multcolib.org/kids/hisotry.html

(accessed 13 July 2004).

Smithsonian Institution American History Timeline

<http://www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/timeline.htm>

(accessed 7 September 2004).

Soon's Historical Fiction Site,

<http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~soon/histfiction/>

(accessed 7 September 2004).



Historical Fiction Genre Study

Historical Fiction Writers to Try, If You Enjoy ...

Adventure

Henryk Sienkiewicz
Robert Lewis Taylor (*Roaring in the Wind*)
James Alexander Thom
Dorothy Dunnett
Lucia St. Clair Robson - *The Tokaido Road*

Family Sagas

Jean Stubbs
Cynthia Harrod-Eagles
Catherine Cookson

Fantasy

Jennifer Roberson
Persia Woolley
Marion Zimmer Bradley

Gentle

Eugenia Price
Jeanne Williams

Inspirational

Thomas B. Costain

Literary

Michael Shaara (Killer Angels)
George Garrett
Hella A. Haasse
Edith Pargeter

Sagas

Sagas span decades or centuries. Both sagas and epics are lengthier and offer the reader an opportunity to know the families involved and to become immersed in their lives. Most of these books involve a great deal of romance and adventure.

Dengler, Sandy. *Code of Honor*. (Australian Destiny series)
[Australia: 20th Century]
Jakes, John. *The Bastard*. (The Kent Family Chronicles)
[American Revolution]
Jordan, Robert, writing as Reagan O'Neal. *Fallon Blood*.
(Fallon Series) [American Revolution]
McCullough, Colleen. *The Thorn Birds*. [Australia: 20th
Century]
McMurtry, Larry. *Dead Man's Walk*. (Lonesome Dove
Saga) [America: Western]
Price, Eugenia. *Bright Captivity*. (Georgia trilogy)
[Antebellum Georgia]

Epics

Epic historical novels cover centuries or even millennia and are focused on a specific geographical location. James Michener is best known for his epics.

Follett, Ken. *Pillars of the Earth*.
Michener, James. *Hawaii*.
Rutherford, Edward. *London*
Smith, Wilbur A. *A Time to Die*.

1970's

America: Watergate
Nixon
Vietnam War

World: Khmer Rouge takes over Cambodia
Three Mile Island

America

Butler, Robert Olen. *The Deep Green Sea*. [America: Vietnam]

Fast, Howard. *The Immigrant's Daughter*

Mailer, Norman. *The Executioner's Song*. [Utah]

Updike, John. *Memories of the Ford Administration*.
[Politics]

Webb, James H. *Lost Soldiers*. [Vietnam: Mystery]

World

DeMille, Nelson. *Up Country: A Novel*. [Vietnam: Mystery]

Hillerman, Toni. *Finding Moon*. [Vietnam, Cambodia]

Lund, Gerald. *One in Thine Hand*. [Israel-Arab War]

Teen

Garland, Sherry. *Song of the Buffalo Boy*. [Vietnam]

Ho, Minfong. *The Clay Marble*. [Cambodia]

Hold, Kimberly Willis. *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. [Texas]

Qualey, Marsha. *Come in From the Cold*. [Vietnam Protest]

Military Adventure

Patrick O'Brian
Bernard Cornwell
Alexander Kent

Mystery

Lindsey Davis
Ellis Peters
Margaret Lawrence
Anne Perry

Romance

Dorothy Dunnett (Romantic Adventure)
Rosalind Laker
Robertta Gellis (Roselynde Chronicles)
Patricia Veryan (Golden Chronicles)

Thriller

Margaret Birkhead

Western

Don Coldsmith
Norman Zollinger
Will Henry

Women's Lives

Gillian Bradshaw
Molly Gloss
Claire Cooperstein

Adapted from *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction*, by Joyce G. Saricks. P. 92, fig. 5.2. , P. 100, fig. 5.3. , Chicago: American Library Association, 2001.

Some Suggested Historical Fiction Titles by Time Period

If a title is followed by a series name in parentheses, the listed title is first in the series. Information in brackets indicates specific geographic location, time period, event, or genre.

PREHISTORIC and Ancient Time

Prehistory comprises the time period of human history before the beginning of the written word. Ancient time could include any of the ancient civilizations like Egypt, Greece, Rome or the Vikings. These books appeal to readers because of the distant, almost mythological time.

- Auel, Jean. *Clan of the Cave Bear*. (Earth's Children series)
Card, Orson Scott. *Sarah*. (Women of Genesis series)
Diamant, Anita. *The Red Tent*. [Biblical Times]
Gear, W. Michael and Kathleen O'Neal Gear. *People of the Wolf*. (The First North Americans series)
Harris, Robert. *Pompeii: A Novel*.
Harrison, Sue. *Mother Earth, Father Sky*. [North American Indians]
Jacq, Christian. *The Son of Light*. (Ramses series) [Ancient Egypt]
Lambert, Joan Dahr. *Circles of Stone*. [Prehistory]
McCullough, Colleen. *The First Man in Rome*. (Masters of Rome series) [Ancient Rome]
Smith, Wilbur. *The River God*. [Ancient Egypt]

Teen

- Brennan, J.H. *Shiva*. [Prehistory]
Cooney, Caroline B. *Goddess of Yesterday*. [Troy]
Fletcher, Susan. *Shadow Spinner*. [Ancient Persia]
Geras, Adele. *Troy*.

1960's

- America: Civil Rights
John F. Kennedy
The Beatles
Cuban Missile Crisis
Man's First Walk on the Moon
Watts Riots
- World: Nelson Mandela
Six-Day War (Israel-Arab)
Berlin Wall Erected

America

- Buckley, William F. *Elvis in the Morning*. [Elvis]
Faulks, Sebastian. *On Green Dolphin Street*. [Cold War]
Hughes, Dean. *The Writing on the Wall*. (Hearts of the Children Series)
Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*. [1964]
Norman, Philip. *Everyone's Gone to the Moon*.

World

- Phillips, Michael. *Escape to Freedom*. [Germany: Berlin Wall]
Wouk, Herman. *The Hope*. [Israel-Arab War]

Teen

- Alvarez, Julia. *Before We Were Free*. [Dominican Republic]
Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963*. [America: Prejudice]
Krisher, Trudy. *Spite Fences*. (Kinship Series) [America: Prejudice]

1950's

America: Brown Vs. Board of Education
Korean War
McCarthyism
Eisenhower
Martin Luther King

World: Castro takes over Cuba
Cold War
Sputnik

America

Buckley, William F. *The Redhunter: A Novel Based on the Life of Senator Joe McCarthy.*
Gorman, Edward. *The Day the Music Died.* [Mystery]
Roth, Philip. *I Married a Communist.*

World

Carroll, James. *Secret Father.* [Cold War]
Hunter, Stephen. *Havana.* [Cuba]
Lawton, John. *Old Flames.* [Cold War]

Teen

Choi, Sook Nyul. *Echoes of the White Giraffe.* [Korean War]
Crowe, Chris. *Mississippi Trial, 1955.*
Holt, Kimberly Willis. *My Louisiana Sky.* [Louisiana]
White, Ruth. *Memories of Summer.* [America]

Middle Ages and Renaissance

Middle Ages 500 – 1500,
Renaissance 1420 – 1600

Many readers think of the romance of historical European settings as turreted castles, ladies fair, and knights in gleaming armor. The legends of King Arthur and Robin Hood are also very popular.

Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *The Mists of Avalon.* [King Arthur]
Brooks, Geraldine. *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague.*
Cornwell, Bernard. *Excalibur: A Novel of Arthur.*
Dunnnett, Dorothy. *Niccolo Rising.* (House of Niccolo Series)
[Fifteenth-century]
Hawke, Simon. *A Mystery of Errors.* (Shakespeare & Smythe mysteries)
Peters, Ellis. *A Morbid Taste for Bones.* [12th Century: Mystery]
Roberson, Jennifer. *Lady of the Forest.* [Maid Marian]
Stone, Irving. *The Agony and the Ecstasy.* [Michelangelo]
White, T.H. *The Once and Future King.* [King Arthur: Sci-Fi]

Teen

Cushman, Karen. *Catherine, Called Birdy.*
Matilda Bone
The Midwife's Apprentice.
Horowitz, Anthony. *The Devil and His Boy.*
Hunter, Mollie. *The King's Swift Rider: a Novel of Robert the Bruce.*
Meyer, Carolyn. *Mary, Bloody Mary.*
Sutcliff, Rosemary. *The Shining Company.*
White, T.H. *The Sword in the Stone.*
Yolen, Jane and Robert J. Harris. *Girl in a Cage.*

Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

(1600 – 1799)

America: Colonization
American Revolution
Salem Witchcraft
French & Indian War

World: Colonization
French Revolution
Piracy

America

Clark, Mary Higgins. *Mount Vernon Love Story: a Novel of George and Martha Washington*. [late 1700s]

Cooper, James Fenimore. *Deerslayer*. [French & Indian War]

Cornwell, Bernard. *Redcoat*. [Revolutionary War]

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*. [Colonial Massachusetts]

Lawrence, Margaret. *Hearts and Bones*. [Maine: Mystery]

Meyers, Naan. *The Dutchman's Dilemma*. [New York: Mystery]

Morris, Gilbert. *The Honorable Imposter*. (House of Winslow series) [Mayflower: Inspirational]

Shaara, Jeff. *Rise to Rebellion*. [Sequel: *The Glorious Cause: Revolution*]

World

Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl With a Pearl Earring*. [Netherlands]

Clavell, James. *Shogun*. [Japan]

Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities*. [French Revolution]

Dumas, Alexandre. *Three Musketeers*. [France]

Elegant, Robert S. *Manchu*. [China]

Follett, Ken. *A Place Called Freedom* [Scotland]

Garrett, Elizabeth. *The Sweet Trade*. [Pirates]

Harris, Joanne. *Holy Fools*. [France]

Laker, Rosalind. *The Golden Tulip*. [Netherlands]

WORLD WAR II

(1941-1945)

World War II affected the lives of people all over the world. These titles focus on events that happened in Europe, the Pacific and America.

Bock, Dennis. *The Ash Garden: A Novel*. [Atomic Bomb: Hiroshima]

Caine Mutiny. [Naval Operations]

Charlesworth, Monique. *The Children's War*. [Europe]

Fast, Howard. *The Bridge Builder's Story: A Novel*.

[Holocaust]

Hazzard, Shirley. *The Great Fire*.

Hughes, Dean. *Rumors of War* (Children of the Promise)

[LDS]

Murphy, Louise. *The True Story of Hansel and Gretel*.

[Holocaust]

Otsuka, Julie. *When the Emperor Was Divine*. [Japanese Internment]

[Holocaust]

Peterson, Tracie. *Tidings of Peace*.

Wouk, Herman. *The Winds of War*. (Sequel: *War and Remembrance*)

[Holocaust]

Teen

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy*. [France]

Greene, Bette. *Summer of My German Soldier*. [America]

Hughes, Dean. *Soldier Boys*.

Lowry, Louis. *Number the Stars*. [Denmark]

Matas, Carol. *After the War*. [Holocaust]

Matas, Carol. *In My Enemy's House*. [Germany]

Salisbury, Graham. *Under the Blood-Red Sun*. [Pearl Harbor]

[Holocaust]

Spinelli, Jerry. *Milkweed*. [Poland]

Watkins, Yoko Kawahima. *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*.

[Pacific]

Early Twentieth Century

(1900 – 1949)

America: Depression
Dust Bowl
World War I
Immigration
Industrialization
San Francisco Earthquake (1906)

World: Balkan Wars
Russian Revolution
Sinking of the Titanic

America

Belfer, Lauren. *City of Light*. [New York: Industrial Revolution]
Brown, Joe David. *Paper Moon*. [Depression]
Dallas, Sandra. *The Persian Pickle Club*. [Kansas: Depression]
Day, Dianne. *Fire and Fog*. [1906 Earthquake: Mystery]
Mendelsohn, Jane. *I was Amelia Earhart*.
Winspear, Jacqueline. *Maisie Dobbs*. [WWI: Mystery]

World

Archer, Jeffrey. *As the Crow Flies*. [England: WWI]
Bass, Cynthia. *Maiden Voyage*. [Titanic]
Buck, Pearl. *The Good Earth*. [China]
Delderfield, R.F. *To Serve Them All My Days*. [England]
McCullough, Colleen. *The Thorn Birds*. [Australia: Saga]
Pasternak, Boris. *Doctor Zhivago*. [Russia]

Teen

Auch, Mary Jane. *Ashes of Roses*. [New York: Immigrants]
Donnelly, Jennifer. *A Northern Light*. [New York]
Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*. [Dust Bowl]
Witness. [Ku Klux Klan]
Lawrence, Iain. *Lord of the Nutcracker Men*. [WWI]
Namioka, Lensey. *Ties that Bind, Ties that Break*. [China]
Peck, Richard. *Amanda/Miranda*. [Titanic]
Taylor, Mildred D. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*.
[Mississippi: Depression]

Piercy, Marge. *City of Darkness, City of Light*. [French Revolution]
Plaidy, Jean. *Myself My Enemy*. [England]
Rowland, Laura Joh. *Black Lotus*. [Japan]
Shellabarger, Samuel. *Captain Castile*. [Mexico]
Smith, Wilbur. *Birds of Prey* [Pirates]
Stirling, Jessica. *Lantern for the Dark*. [Scotland]
Weenolsen, Hebe. *The Trial of Jenny Sykes*. [England]
Winsor, Kathleen. *Forever Amber*. [London]

Teen

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever, 1793*. [Philadelphia]
Collier, James Lincoln. *My Brother Sam is Dead*. [American Revolution]
Cooney, Carline B. *The Ransom of Mercy Carter*. [Indian Captive]
Fast, Howard. *April Morning*. [Massachusetts]
Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain*. [Boston]
Hoobler, Dorothy. *The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn*. [Japan]
Lasky, Kathryn. *Beyond the Burning Time* [Salem, Massachusetts]
Matas, Carol. *The Burning Time*. [France]
Matcheck, Diane. *The Sacrifice*. [Crow Indians]
Merino, Jose Maria. *The Gold of Dreams*. [Mexico]
Rinaldi, Ann. *Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons: The Story of Phillis Wheatley*. [African-American Slaves]

Nineteenth Century

(1800 – 1899)

America: Civil War & Reconstruction
Westward Expansion
Industrial Revolution

World: Napoleon
Reign of Queen Victoria
Crimean War

America

Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*. [Pioneer]
Cornwell, Bernard. *Rebel*. (Nate Starbuck Series) [Civil War]
Donati, Sara. *Into the Wilderness*. [Pioneer]
Durham, David Anthony. *Gabriel's Story*. [Frontier]
Eberhart, Mignon Good. *Bayou Road*. [Civil War]
Edmonds, Walter D. *In the Hands of the Senecas*. [Native Americans]
Frazier, Charles. *Cold Mountain*. [Civil War]
Jakes, John. *North and South*. (North and South trilogy) [Civil War]
Jones, Douglas C. *The Barefoot Brigade*. [Arkansas: Civil War]
Kantor, MacKinlay. *Andersonville*. [Civil War]
L'Amour, Louis. *The Lonely Men*. (Sacketts Series) [Western]
Lund, Gerald. *Pillar of Light*. (The Work and the Glory) [LDS]
McMurtry, Larry. *Dead Man's Walk*. [Lonesome Dove Saga]
Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone With the Wind*. [Civil War]
Price, Eugenia. *The Waiting Time*. [Georgia Plantation: Romance]
Shaara, Michael. *The Killer Angels*. [Gettysburg]
Snelling, Lauraine. *An Untamed Land*. (Red River of the North Series) [Inspirational]
Thom, James Alexander. *Follow the River*. [Indian Captive]
Wister, Owen. *The Virginian*. [Frontier]

World

Carey, Peter. *The True History of the Kelly Gang*. [Australia]
Collins, Wilkie. *Moonstone*. [England: Mystery]
Crichton, Michael. *The Great Train Robbery*. [Great Britain]
Forrest, Anthony. *Captain Justice*. [Napoleonic Wars]
Forster, E.M. *Passage to India*. [India]
Forster, Margaret. *Lady's Maid*. [England]
Godshalk, C.S. *Kalimantan*. [Borneo]
Kaye, M.M. *Shadow of the Moon* [India]
Matthee, Dalene. *Fiela's Child*. [South Africa]
O'Brian, Patrick. *Master and Commander*. (Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin Novels) [Napoleonic Wars]
Perry, Anne. *The Cater Street Hangman*. (Thomas and Charlotte Pitt Mysteries) [England: Mystery]
Phillips, Caryl. *Cambridge*. [West Indies]
Thoene, Bodie. *Only the River Runs Free*. (Galway Chronicles) [Ireland]

Teen

Armstrong, Jennifer. *The Dreams of Mairhe Mehan*. (*Mairhe Mehan Series*) [Irish Immigrants]
Cadnum, Michael. *Blood Gold*. [American: Gold Rush]
Cannon, A.E. *Charlotte's Rose*. [America: Mormon pioneers]
Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage*. [Civil War]
Cushman, Karen. *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* [America: Pioneers]
Erdrich, Louise. *The Birchbark House*. [Native Americans]
Fleischman, Paul. *Bull Run*. [Civil War]
Hardman, Ric Lynden. *Sunshine Rider*. [America: Western]
Heuston, Kimberley. *The Shakeress*. [America]
Hunt, Irene. *Across Five Aprils*. [Civil War]
Keith, Harold. *Rifles for Watie*. [Civil War]
Paterson, Katherine. *Lyddie*. [Textile Mills]
Rebels of the Heavenly Kingdom. [China]
Peck, Richard. *The River Between Us*. [Civil War]
Pullman, Philip. *The Ruby in the Smoke* [London: Mystery]
Reaver, Chap. *A Little Bit Dead*. [Western]