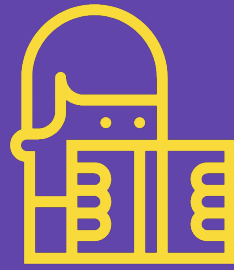


# HISTORIC BOOKS



FOR ~~KIDS~~ *Teens*



## Historical fiction for older teens by time period

In case you're wondering which books are more suited for older kids, we put together this comprehensive list. The list has grown (and will continue to grow) over time.

I would love to say I've read them all, but there are simply too many books and not enough hours. However, most come recommended as appropriate for "teens". In keeping with our "Historic Books for Kids" theme, it was necessary to omit some recommendations if they seemed too adultish. However, I retained many and labeled them "YA to Adult" if they are typically studied classics or the historic topic is an important one (and the characters are younger men and women).

Feel free to [provide feedback](#) or to suggest other age-appropriate titles for this list as well as our bookstore. **This list was last updated: April 17, 2023.**

### **Fantasy and Time Travel Crossovers (for reluctant historical fiction readers)**

Most of these fit the medieval era with a few exceptions as noted:

[The Crystal Cave](#) by Mary Stewart set in the Arthurian period.

[The Mists of Avalon](#) by Marion Zimmer Bradley set in the Arthurian period. (Book 1 of 5).

[Changeling](#) by Phillipa Gregory (Book 1 of 4).

[Grave Mercy](#) by Robin Lafevers (His Fair Assassins series).

[Sent to Watch](#) by David Lebenstein. Sci-fi crossover set in British Regency period.

[Kindred](#) by Octavia Butler. Time travel 1970s to pre-U.S. Civil War.

[The Snow Child](#) by Eowyn Ivey. Fantasy woven in, set in Alaska 1920.

### **Medieval**

[Beowulf](#) by author unknown. Set in the Dark Ages, 6<sup>th</sup> century.

[Sir Gawain and the Green Knight](#) by Author unknown. Set in Medieval times.

[Don Quixote](#) by Cervantes. About knight life in late Medieval times.

### **Tudor Era/Renaissance**

[The Locksmith's Daughter](#) by Karen Brooks in Queen Elizabeth's England.

[Nine Days a Queen: The Short Life and Reign of Lady Jane Grey](#) by Ann Rinaldi.

### **New World / Colonial America**

[Act of Oblivion](#) by Robert Harris. 1660 hunt for the killers of King Charles I to colonial America (YA to Adult)

[Beheld](#) by Tarashea Nesbit. Fledgling Plymouth colony.

[Witch of Blackbird Pond](#) by Elizabeth George Speare. Set in colonial Connecticut in 1687.

[A Break with Charity: A Story about the Salem Witch Trials](#) by Ann Rinaldi.

[Beneath a Marble Sky](#) by John Shors. Set in 1632.

[The Scarlet Letter](#) by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Set in puritan society 17<sup>th</sup> century Boston.

[Flight of the Sparrow](#) by Amy Belding Brown. Set in 1676 Massachusetts.

[The Indigo Girl](#) by Nathsha Boyd. 1739 South Carolina plantation life.

[Calico Bush](#) by Rachel Field. Set in 1740s Maine.

[Follow the River](#) by James Alexander Thom. 1755. A white woman's journey of 1000 miles to return to her own people.

[The Last of the Mohicans](#) by James Fenimore Cooper. Set in 1757 during the Seven Years' War.

[A Kidnapping In Kentucky 1776](#) by Elizabeth Raum

## **American Revolutionary War**

[Someone Knows My Name](#) by Lawrence Hill. From Africa to Slavery to England. YA to adult.

[Johnny Tremaine](#) by Esther Hoskins Forbes (Revolutionary War)

[The Fifth of March](#): A Story of the Boston Massacre by Ann Rinaldi.

[Fever 1783](#) by Laurie Halse Anderson. 1793 Philadelphia.

[Chains](#) by Laurie Halse Anderson.

[Taking Liberty](#): The Story of Oney Judge by Ann Rinaldi.

[The Secret of Sarah Revere](#) by Ann Rinaldi.

[Finishing Becca](#): A Story about Peggy Shippen and Benedict Arnold by Ann Rinaldi.

[My Brother Sam is Dead](#) by James Lincoln Collier & Christopher Collier. Set during the American Revolution.

[A Tale of Two Cities](#) by Charles Dickens. About the French Revolution.

## **19<sup>th</sup> Century (includes Civil War)**

[America's First Daughter](#) by Stephanie Dray. A novel about Thomas Jefferson's daughter, includes well-researched history. YA – adult.

[The Journey of York: The Unsung Hero of the Lewis and Clark Expedition](#) by Hasan Davis. 1804

[Night of the Full Moon](#) By Gloria Whelan for ages 7-10. Story takes place in 1840 about Potawatomi Indians.

[Oliver Twist](#) by Charles Dickens. Set in Victorian England.

[Emma](#) by Jane Austen. Set in Georgian-Regency England.

[Pride & Prejudice](#) by Jane Austen. Set in Georgian-Regency England.

[Sense & Sensibility](#) by Jane Austen. Set in Georgian-Regency England.

[The Missing Manuscript of Jane Austen](#) by Syrie James about an 1802 novel written by Jane Austen.

[Jane Eyre](#) by Charlotte Bronte. Set in Georgian-Regency England.

[Wuthering Heights](#) by Emily Bronte. Set in Georgian-Regency England.

[Great Expectations](#) by Charles Dickens. Set in 19<sup>th</sup> century England.

[The Kitchen House](#) by Kathleen Grissom. Pre-civil war Virginia – life of a white indentured servant girl among slaves. YA – adult.

[The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#) by Mark Twain. Life in Missouri, pre-Civil War.

[Tom Sawyer](#) by Mark Twain. Life in Missouri, pre-Civil War.

[True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle](#) by Avi. Coming home from school in England to Rhode Island in the summer of 1832.

[West](#) by Carys Davies. American Frontier.

[O Pioneers!](#) by Willa Cather. Life in the Nebraska prairie.  
[The Song of the Lark](#) by Willa Cather. Life in the Nebraska prairie.  
[My Antonia](#) by Willa Cather. Life in the Nebraska prairie.  
[Little House on the Prairie](#) by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Life in the Kansas prairie.  
[An Acquaintance with Darkness](#) by Ann Rinaldi 1860s for grades 7 to 9.  
[Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker](#) by Jennifer Chiaverini. Set in 1861.  
[Little Women](#) by Louisa May Alcott. Civil War-era Massachusetts.  
[Sunflower Sisters](#) by Martha Hall Kelly. Different women caught up in the Civil War. YA to Adult.  
[The Widow of the South](#) by Robert Hicks. Civil War. YA to Adult.  
[Coal Black Horse](#) by Robert Olmstead. Civil War.  
[Across Five Aprils](#) by Irene Hunt. Set in 1861,  
[The Bride's House](#) by Sandra Dallas set in 1880 Colorado.  
[These is My Words](#) by Nancy e Turner set in 1888-1901.  
[The Children's Blizzard](#) by Melanie Benjamin. Disaster on the prairie 1888. YA to Adult.  
[Orphan Train](#) by Christina Baker Kline. Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains took thousands of abandoned children west.  
[Anna Karenina](#) by Leo Tolstoy. Late-19th century Russia.  
[Ann of Green Gables](#) by L.M. Montgomery. Set in late 19th century, Prince Edward Island, Canada.  
[Heart of Darkness](#) by Joseph Conrad. European colonialism in Africa in 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
[The Age of Innocence](#) by Edith Wharton. Upper Class New York during the 1870s.  
[The Brothers Karamozov](#) by Fyodor Dostoevsky. 19th-century Russia.  
[The Call of the Wild](#) by Jack London. Set during the Yukon gold rush.

## **1900 – 1930s**

[Howard's End](#) by E.M. Forster. Set in England during turn of the 20th century.  
[Ulysses](#) by James Joyce. Set in Dublin, Ireland in 1904.  
[The Jungle](#) by Upton Sinclair. 1906 immigration in Chicago.  
[The Hired Girl](#) by Laura Amy Schlitz. 1911 Jewish America  
[The Downstairs Girl](#) by Stacey Lee. Chinese-American life of a young woman.  
[A Tree Grows in Brooklyn](#) by Betty Smith. 1912 New York.  
[A Brilliant Night of Stars and Ice](#) by Rebecca Connolly. The Carpathia's effort to save the Titanic's passengers, 1912.  
[The Girl Who Came Home](#): A Novel of the Titanic by Hazel Gaynor.  
[As Bright as Heaven](#) by Susan Meissner about the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic in Philadelphia  
[The Orphan Collector](#): A Heroic Novel of Survival During the 1918 Influenza Pandemic by Ellen Marie Wiseman  
[The Sun Also Rises](#) by Ernest Hemingway. Post-World War I Europe.  
[To the Lighthouse](#) by Virginia Woolfe. Set on the Isle of Skye in Scotland between 1910 and 1920.  
[Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919](#) by Stephen Puleo. YA - adult

[Cane](#) by Jean Toomer. Black life in early 20<sup>th</sup> century American South.

[Dreamland Burning](#) by Jennifer Latham. 1921 Tulsa race riot. YA

[The Great Gatsby](#) by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Roaring 20s.

[Brideshead Revisited](#) by Evelyn Waugh. Upper Class England 1920s and 1930s.

[Maisie Dobbs](#) by Jacqueline Winspear 1929 London. Book 1 of series.

[Native Son](#) by Richard Wright. Set in 1930s Chicago.

[Go Tell it on the Mountain](#) by James Baldwin, the story of a 14-year old boy in 1935 Harlem.

[Of Mice and Men](#) by John Steinbeck. Set during the Great Depression.

[The Grapes of Wrath](#) by John Steinbeck. Set during the Great Depression.

[The Four Winds](#) by Kristin Hannah. A woman's struggle for her family during the dust bowl. YA to adult.

[The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek](#) by Kim Michele Richardson set in 1936 Kentucky

[Fast Girls](#) by Elise Hooper, set during the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

[The Boys in the Boat](#): Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown.

[To Kill a Mockingbird](#) by Harper Lee. Racism in American South set in 1936.

[Bud, Not Buddy](#) by Christopher Paul Curtis (Set in Flint Michigan 1936.)

[Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry](#) by Mildred D. Taylor (Jim Crow south)

[West with Giraffes](#) by Lynda Rutledge. 1938

[For Whom the Bell Tolls](#) by Ernest Hemingway. Spanish Civil War (1936–1939).

[Before We Were Yours](#) by Lisa Wingate. Based on a real-life scandal of 1939 Memphis-based adoption organization.

## **World War II/Holocaust**

[This Light Between Us](#): A Novel of World War II by Andrew Fukuda.

[All the Light We Cannot See](#) by Anthony Doerr.

[The Book Thief](#) by Markus Zusak.

[The Forest of Vanishing Stars](#) by Kristin Harmel, set in 1941 Europe.

[Bluebird](#) by Sharon Cameron, set in 1946 Berlin/NYC.

[The Last Bookshop in London](#) by Madeline Martin set in WW 2 London.

[Last Year of the War](#) by Susan Meissner, set in 1943 Texas.

[Only the Beautiful](#) Susan Meissner, set in California 1938.

[Refugee](#) by Alan Gratz set in 1930s Nazi Germany.

[The Rose Code](#) by Kate Quinn, the story of three young women code breakers at Bletchley Park

[Code Name Verity](#) by Elizabeth E. Wein, two young female spies in Nazi-occupied France. YA to Adult.

[The Upstairs Room](#) by Johanna Reiss, Book 1 of 2: Nazi occupied Holland.

[Keep Smiling Through](#) by Ann Rinaldi.

[Salt to the Sea](#) by Ruta Sepetys.

[Night](#) by Elie Wiesel. Set during the Holocaust.

[Diary of Anne Frank](#) by Anne Frank. Set during the Holocaust.

[Number the Stars](#) by Lois Lowry. Set during the Holocaust.

[The Hiding Place](#) by Corrie ten Boom. Set during the Holocaust.

[We Are Not Free](#) by Traci Chee. Japanese incarceration camps in America.

### **Civil Rights**

[The Outsiders](#) by S. E. Hinton (1950s).

[Invisible Man](#) by Ralph Ellison. About racism in 1950s.

[The Help](#) by Kathryn Stockett set in 1962

[The Secret Life of Bees](#) by Sue Monk Kidd set in 1964 South Carolina.

[Where the Crawdads Sing](#) by Delia Owens, is a murder mystery set in 1969 N Carolina.

### **Cold War, Space Race to Present**

[Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy](#) by John le Carre. Cold War era after World War II.

[Hidden Figures Young Readers' Edition](#) by Margot Lee Shetterly. 1950s touches on civil rights, space race, cold war, and gender equality topics.

[I Must Betray You](#) by Ruta Sepetys, set in Romania, 1989.

[Between Shades of Grey](#) by Ruta Sepetys, set in Lithuania during the Cold War.

[The Fountains of Silence](#) by Ruta Sepetys, set in Spain 1957 under fascist dictator General Francisco Franco.

[The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini, in the final days of the Afghanistan monarchy to the present.

[Full Cicada Moon](#) by Marilyn Hinton, set in America during the 1969 space mission.

[The Only Road](#) by Alexandra Diaz. (Immigration from Guatemala)