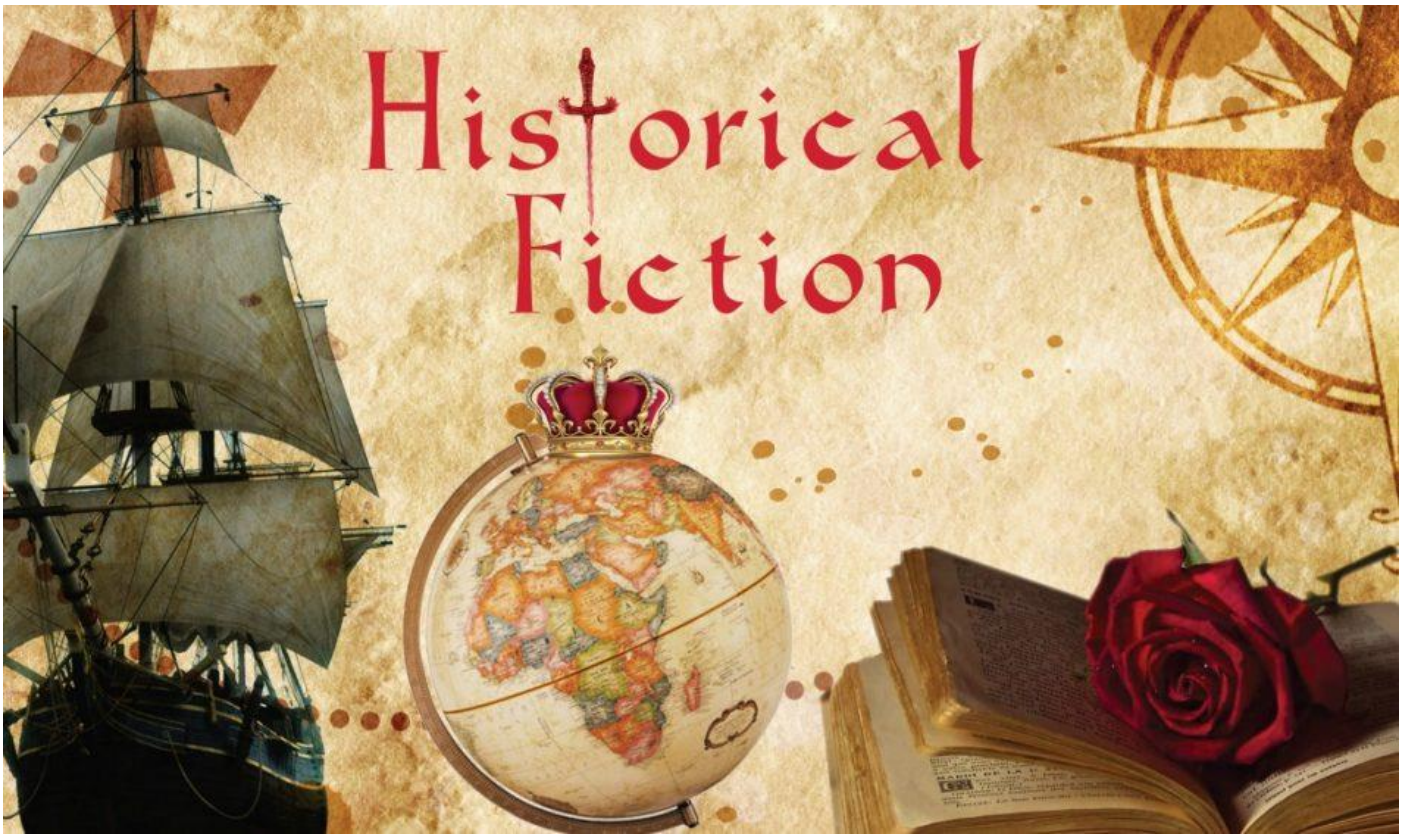
History Reading List

The following books will help you to support your history studies. They are currently in sections to help you choose either by interest or by topic currently being studied.

If you have read a good book that is not currently on the list please feel free to email your teacher to get it added – a recommendation of why also really helps.



Recommended reads are highlighted

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Before 1066

Prehistoric Britain

The Boy with the Bronze Axe by Kathleen Fiddler - A story imagined around the catastrophe that hits the Stone Age village of Skara Brae in Orkney and buries it under sand until its re-emergence in a storm in 1850.

Warrior Scarlet by Rosemary Sutcliff - In Bronze Age Britain, young Drem must overcome his disability – a withered arm – if he is to prove his manhood and become a warrior.

Peace weavers by Julia Jarman - Hilde is furious when her peace-campaigner mother sends her to live with her father on a USAF base. War with Iraq looks inevitable, and Hilde is against it, but believes that protesting is futile. That is, until she steals a gold brooch from the grave of a sixth-century woman - a peace weaver - and suddenly, her feelings begin to change...

Bloodline by Katy Moran - Warring kingdoms, bloody feuds and a battle for survival... Set in Dark Ages Britain, this is the story of Essa, whose father Cai, a travelling bard and occasional spy, leaves him behind one night at a settlement of the Wolf Clan.

Wolf Girl by Theresa Tomlinson - Cwen, a poor weaver struggling to make a living at Whitby Abbey, is accused of possessing a valuable necklace; if found guilty she could be hanged. Wulfrun, Cwen's daughter, sets out to prove her mother's innocence.

Daughter of the Wolf by Victoria Whitworth - Northumbria, 859 has rival kings. Radmer of Donmouth is guardian of the estuary, the gateway to Northumbria. When Radmer is sent to Rome Radmer's daughter Elfrun must keep the kingdom safe.

Roman

The Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliff – 'Four thousand men disappeared and their eagle standard was lost. It's a mystery that's never been solved, until now…'

The Queen's Brooch by Henry Treece – 'The son of a Roman Tribune's life is changed by his meeting with the warrior Queen Boudicca.'

Song for a Dark Queen by Rosemary Sutcliff – The story of Boudicca and the Iceni tribe versus the Romans through the eyes of her loyal servant.

Warriors of Alvna by N.M. Browne – Two pupils, transported back in time to the year A.D.75 in Roman Britain during a school trip, discover that they have acquired extraordinary powers that are to be used to help a Celtic tribe battle against the brutal Romans.

Power and Stone by Alice Leader – Set in A.D.130 on Hadrian's Wall, just as work on the wall is nearing completion. Two boys, Marcus and Telemachus, join their father, a Roman commander, in one of the forts.

The Capricorn Bracelet by Rosemary Sutcliff – A set of stories set at the time of the Roman occupation of Britain and following the fortunes of one family over three hundred years.

Frontier Wolf by Rosemary Sutcliff – As punishment for his poor judgment, a young, inexperienced Roman army officer is sent to Northern England to assume the command of a motley group known as the Frontier Wolves.

The Lantern Bearers by Rosemary Sutcliff – The last of the Roman army have set sail and left Britain forever, abandoning it to civil war and the threat of a Saxon invasion. Aquila deserts his regiment to return to his family, but his home and all that he loves are destroyed.

Outcast by Rosemary Sutcliff – Rescued as a baby from a shipwrecked Roman galley, Beric is raised in a British tribe but is never fully accepted by them. When disaster and bad times come to the clan, they cast him out.

The Silver Branch by Rosemary Sutcliff – In fear for their lives, Justin and Flavius gather together a tattered band of men and lead them into the thick of battle, to defend the honour of Rome. But will they be in time to save the Emperor?

Viking

The Shield Ring by Rosemary Sutcliffe – Viking resistance to the Norman conquest set in and around Buttermere.

The Last Kingdom by Bernard Cornwell – for older readers, this first book in a series is set in England during the reign of King Alfred. Uhtred, an English noble boy is brought up as a Viking…

The Yelling Stones by Oskar Jensen – Viking princess Astrid resists her brother's attempts to bring Christianity to Denmark in A.D.958.

The Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer – Jack is kidnapped by berserkers from his Saxon village in the year A.D.793, an occurrence forewarned by his mentor, the Bard. Captured by Viking chief Olaf One-Brow, Jack and his sister Lucy are swiftly taken to the court of Ivar the Boneless.

The Raven and the Cross by John Tully – about Vikings in Britain in the time of King Alfred.

The Norman Conquest

The Chosen Queen by Joanna Courtney - 1066, three Queens, one Crown. As a young woman in England's royal court, Edyth, dreams of marrying for love. but political matches are rife while King Edward is still without an heir and the future of England is uncertain.

Anglo-Saxon Boy by Tony Bradman – a story of 1066 woven around Magnus, young son of the Earl of Wessex.

Knight's Fee by Rosemary Sutcliff – Against the violent and turbulent backdrop of Norman England, the story of a young boy who is wagered and won in a game of chess between a lord and a minstrel…

Arthur: The Seeing Stone by Kevin Crossley-Holland – In 1199, in the Welsh Marches, young Arthur de Caldicot has a magical shining stone that reveals King Arthur. The secrets and mysteries of life in a medieval manor are echoed and anticipated by the young king's story. It is followed by ***At the Crossing-Places*** and ***King of the Middle March***, set against the backdrop of the Crusade.

Life in the Middle Ages

Red Towers over Granada by Geoffrey Trease – Starting in England and moving to Islamic Spain, the year is 1290 and a young boy is declared a leper, a Jewish doctor is to be expelled from England and a queen is in need.

Fire, Bed and Bone by Henrietta Branfield – A story set at the time of the Peasants' Revolt. The narrator is a dog, who witnesses what happens to his family as the drama unfolds.

A Little Lower than the Angels by Geraldine McCaughrean – Gabriel runs away from his apprenticeship with the bad-tempered stonemason. But playmaster Garvey has plans for him. He wants Gabriel for his angel...

The Children's Crusade by Henry Treece – Two children made slaves in Egypt have many adventures trying to get home to England.

Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman – Catherine's father is trying to marry her off to disgusting old Shaggy Beard, and her mother's determined to turn her into the perfect medieval lady…

Robin of Sherwood by Michael Morpurgo – Beneath the roots of a great oak tree, a boy finds a hunting horn, bones and a skull. Clutching these objects, he has a dream and relives Robin's story.

Good to know…

The series called ***'History Quick Reads'*** *is great for people looking for short stories from the past that are easy to get into and through.*

Castle Diary by Richard Platt – Sent to his uncle's castle to learn to be a page, 11-year-old Toby keeps a detailed journal of everything that happens there during the year of 1285.

Warrior Girl by Pauline Chandler – France, 1428. Mariane's parents have been murdered by the occupying English army. Taken in by her aunt and uncle, Mariane is drawn to her strange and awkward cousin, Jehanne.

Sparrow: The Story of Joan of Arc by Michael Morpurgo – Eloise has always loved Joan of Arc. And, on a bright sunny day in Orleans, Eloise has a very special daydream…

The Tudors

Eliza Rose by Lucy Worsley – The story of a young girl in the court of Henry VIII at the time of Anne of Cleves and her cousin, Katharine Howard.

Treason by Berlie Doherty - Will's father is imprisoned by Henry VIII, accused of treason and Will is forced to go into hiding in the back streets of London.

The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain – Edward Tudor, heir to the throne, and Tom Canty, a poor boy, change places.

Voices: Diver's Daughter: A Tudor Story by Patrice Lawrence – Eve and her mother, stolen from her family in Mozambique, leave the Elizabethan slums of London to travel to Southampton and to be free-divers on the wreck of the Mary Rose.

A Traveller in Time by Alison Uttley – A young girl lives in the manor of the Babingtons and travels back to the time when the family was caught up in plots to free Mary Queen of Scots.

King of Shadows by Susan Cooper – A boy from New England rehearses for a boy troupe performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in London and finds himself back in time in the actual Globe, with a case of mistaken identity that leads him to work with the playwright himself.

The Fool's Girl by Celia Rees – Violetta and Feste have come to London to rescue the holy relics taken from the church in Illyria by the evil Malvolio. They meet William Shakespeare.

The Goldsmith's Daughter by Tanya Landman – The story of a young girl struggling to change the course of her fate as the once mighty Aztec Empire collapses around her.

Recommended: *Innocent Traitor* by Alison Weir – story told through the eyes of Lady Jane Grey and how she was forced to become queen.

1603-1750: The Stuarts, the Civil War and witches

A Skinful of Shadows by Frances Hardinge – A young girl at the time of the English Civil War fears possession by a ghost or death.

Mark of the Plague by Kevin Sands – A crime thriller at the time of the 1665 London plague.

Children of Winter by Berlie Doherty – Will they survive the plague?

Ghost Hawk by Susan Cooper – A tale of the European colonisation of Massachusetts from the Indians' point of view.

Witch Child by Celia Rees – A young girl watches her grandmother hanged as a witch in seventeenth-century England and escapes to New England, where she must face the dangers of judgement by Puritans. It has a sequel called *Sorceress*.

No Shame, No Fear by Ann Turnbull – Set in England in the 1660s, this is a love story between a Quaker girl and a non-Quaker boy and the persecution they face.

Burning Issy by Melvin Burgess - in England in the age of the witch hunts, Issy's powers make the villagers call her evil, and she dreams every night that she is burning.

Black powder by Ally Sherrick - 12-year-old Tom's father is to hang. He falls in with a mysterious stranger - the Falcon - who promises to help him in exchange for his service. Tom faces a terrible decision: secure his father's release, or stop the assassination of the king.

Black Hearts in Battersea by Joan Aitken – Simon wants to be a painter. Then he discovers a plot to kill the king, is kidnapped and meets two stowaways. Together can they save the king in time?

The Popinjay Mystery by Geoffrey Trease – Charles II is on the throne and highwaymen are more than they seem.

Trumpets in the West by Geoffrey Trease – Somerset boy Jack Norwood loves music, but he is threatened with a career in the wine trade instead.

The Ghost of Thomas Kempe by Penelope Lively – Thomas Kempe, the apothecary, has returned as a ghost and he wants James to be his apprentice.

1700-1900

Georgian Times

Gideon the cutpurse by Linda Buckley- Archer - when Peter and Kate pop out of thin air in 1763 along with the anti-gravity machine that brought them there, they are lucky to do so in front of Gideon. Less luckily, the anti-gravity machine is immediately stolen by the Tar Man…

How the Hangman Lost his Heart by K. M Grant - when her uncle Frank is executed for treason against England's King George in 1746 and his severed head is mounted on a pike for public viewing, Alice tries to reclaim the head for a proper burial.

Pirates by Celia Rees – When two young women meet under extraordinary circumstances in the eighteenth-century West Indies, they are unified in their desire to escape their oppressive lives.

The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas – A classic tale about young D'Artagnan and inseparable friends Porthos, Athos and Aramis, at the time of Louis XIV of France.

Hornblower by C.S. Forester – There are actually many classic tales of Horatio Hornblower and his life at sea with the Royal Navy.

Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin – Set in eighteenth-century England, a sometimes harrowing story of two boys whose lives become entwined in the time of Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital and Handel's *Messiah*.

The Apprentices by Leon Garfield – Life in eighteenth-century London from the perspective of young boys trying to learn a trade.

Incomparable World by Si Martin – Set just after the American Revolution, three African Americans find themselves in Georgian London. Better for older readers, it outlines the grim underside of late eighteenth-century London.

John Diamond by Leon Garfield – A young boy braves London to try to correct the wrong his father did to his business partner.

Sovay by Celia Rees – Wild and beautiful, spoilt and wilful, Sovay finds that her cosseted upbringing in rural England has not prepared her for life as a highway robber.

Moonfleet by J.M. Falkner – Orphaned John Trenchard grows up in the village of Moonfleet with his aunt. While conducting his own hunt for the treasure, John is trapped in the church crypt and discovers the true secret of the village: smuggling.

The French Revolution

Blade and Bone by Catherine Johnson – Ezra McAdam, his friend Loveday Finch and her charge, the Ottoman Prince Mahmoud, are caught up in the revolutionary events in Paris.

The Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens – A classic set against the backdrop of France before and during the Revolution that began in 1789.

Liberty's Fire by Lydia Syson – The streets of Paris during the French Commune in 1791. Two young people, who both believe in a free country, fall in love with each other while a siege from within is starting.

Slavery and African-American History

Freedom by Catherine Johnson – 12-year old Nathaniel is a slave, sent to England. Life in London is tough and Nat seizes the first opportunity to escape. He hears the story of The Zong, a ship where the crew murdered 133 slaves.

The Slave Dancer by Paula Fox – Jessie Bollier plays his fife on the docks of New Orleans until he is kidnapped and thrown aboard a slave ship, where his job is to provide music while shackled slaves 'dance' to keep their muscles strong and their bodies profitable.

Passing for White by Tanya Landman – It's 1848 in the Deep South of America. Rosa is a slave but her owner is also her father and her fair skin means that she can 'pass for white'. With the help of her husband Benjamin, she disguises herself as a young southern gentleman…

Long Journey Home by Julius Lester – Stories of black people whose lives were transformed by slavery.

Buffalo Soldier by Tanya Landman – 'What kind of a girl steals the clothes from a dead man's back and runs off to join the army? A desperate one. That's who.' Brutally realistic portrayal of the life of black Americans in the US Civil War. Try also *Apache* by the same author.

The Hypnotist by Laurence Anholt – An Irish professor and a young black boy find their lives cross in the Deep South of the USA in the 1960s.

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis – 11 year old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in his town in Canada. The town is a safe haven for runaway slaves.

Victorian Times

The Throttlepenny Murder by Roger J Green - This is the story of Jessie who hated old Throttlepenny, her miserly boss. When Throttlepenny is found murdered and she finds herself under arrest, will someone prove her innocence before she is hanged?

The Curious Tale of the Lady Caraboo by Catherine Johnson – A mysterious tale of a cobbler's daughter from Devon who fooled the British establishment in the early nineteenth century.

Under the Hawthorn Tree: Children of the Famine by Marita Conlon-McKenna – Ireland in the 1840s is devastated by famine. When tragedy strikes their family, Eily, Michael and Peggy are left to fend for themselves.

Wildflower Girl: Children of the Famine by Marita Conlon-McKenna – At seven, Peggy made a terrifying journey through famine-stricken Ireland. Now 13, and determined to make a new life for herself, she sets off alone across the Atlantic to America. Will she ever see her family again? The final book in the 'Famine' series is *Fields of Home*.

Lizzie's Wish by Adèle Geras – On an extended visit to her cousins in London, Lizzie's passion for plants and trees is fuelled by visits to the newly opened Kew Gardens. Lizzie has ambition and the will to go against the conventions of her Victorian peers.

Street Child by Berlie Doherty – Jim's mother dies and he is alone in London. He is sent to the workhouse but quickly escapes. A story based on the boy who inspired Dr Barnardo to found his famous children's homes. Berlie Doherty's book *Street Sisters* tells of Jim's sisters.

Hetty Feather by Jacqueline Wilson – London, 1876. Hetty Feather is just a tiny baby when her mother leaves her at the Foundling Hospital.

Recommended: The Ruby in the Smoke by Philip Pullman –Determined to discover the truth about her father's death, Sally Lockhart is plunged into a terrifying mystery in the dark heart of Victorian London, at the centre of which lies a deadly, blood-soaked jewel. This first book in the quartet is followed by *Shadow in the North*, *The Tin Princess* and *The Tiger in the Well*.

Recommended: My Name is Victoria by Lucy Worsley – Miss V. Conroy is good at keeping secrets. But when her father sends her to Kensington Palace to become the companion to Princess Victoria, Miss V soon finds that she can no longer remain in the shadows.

Recommended The Railway Children by E. Nesbit – The classic tale of children whose father suddenly goes away. They move to the country, love the local railway and solve the mystery that will bring their father home.

The Twentieth Century

The Suffragettes

Things a Bright Girl Can Do by Sally Nicholls – The fight for women's freedom will challenge Evelyn, May and Nell more than they ever could believe. As war looms, just how much are they willing to sacrifice?

Make More Noise!: New Stories in Honour of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage by Emma Carroll and Kiran Hargrave – A collection of short stories from ten of the UK's very best storytellers.

World War One

Anzac Boys by Tony Bradman – Two orphan brothers are encouraged to emigrate to Australia, used as cheap labour and then join the army and find themselves at Gallipoli.

The Skylarks' War by Hilary McKay – A family grows up against the harsh backdrop of World War One.

Love and War by Theresa Breslin – A group of teenage friends picnic in 1914 as their lives are about to be turned upside down.

Poppy in the Field by Mary Hooper – Broken-hearted Poppy volunteers her nursing skills overseas on the First World War frontline to take her away from home.

Conkers and Grenades by Hilary Lee-Corbin – Set in Bristol in 1916, in a world plunged into war, *Conkers and Grenades* follows Mar and Appy, two boys who discover a spy ring and a plot to assassinate the king and queen.

The Rasputin Dagger by Theresa Breslin – A love story set against the backdrop of the days leading to the Russian Revolution.

Testament of Youth by Vera Brittain – Okay, it's not historical fiction, it's biography, but it was so huge when it was published in the 1930s. A young woman's story of love, loss and the struggle to live in and beyond the First World War.

When the Guns Fell Silent by James Riordan – Standing among the war graves, Jack's memories take him back to the trenches of 1914.

All Quiet on the Western Front by Eric Maria Remarque – experiences of fighting in World War One told from the point of view of a German Soldier

Black History Month Choices

Medal for Leroy by Michal Morpurgo – Inspired by the true story of Walter Tull, professional footballer and the first black officer in the British Army.

Small Island by Angela Levy – The story of two couples through war and post-war, dreaming of a better life and becoming what is now known as the Windrush generation.

Too Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee – a story of racism in the Southern United States, told by a young girl

Rosa by Nikki Giovanni – This tells the story of Rosa Parks and what happened the day she refused to give up her seat on the bus.

The Watson's Go to Birmingham -1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis – this is a story of a family road trip that also tells the story of the Civil Rights Movement

The Holocaust

The Earth is Singing by Vanessa Curtis – A young Jewish Latvian girl tells the story of her life after the Nazis invade. She has promised her disappeared father that she will survive.

Schindler's Ark by Thomas Keneally – Based on the story of Oskar Schindler, member of the Nazi party and rescuer of Polish Jewish people.

Auslander by Paul Dowswell – Peter is sent to an orphanage in Warsaw where it is decided that Peter is racially valuable. He is adopted by a Professor Kaltenbach and his family who are very pleased to welcome such a fine Aryan specimen to their household.

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne – An eight-year-old and his family leave Berlin to take up residence near the concentration camp where his father has just become commandant. Unhappy and lonely, he wanders out behind his house one day and finds Shmuel, a Jewish boy…

Recommended: The Book Thief by Markus Zusak – Narrated by death. Fostered, with parents taken away, a young book thief called Liesel lives in a community in Germany that death is visiting.

Recommended: Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank – This is not fiction either, but it should be read. The most famous diary from the Second World War.

I am David by Anne Holm – David escapes from a prison camp in Eastern Europe and tries to head for Denmark.

Once by Maurice Gleitzman – story of a young Jewish boy determined to save his parents from the Nazis. Part of a trilogy.

Recommended: *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by* Judith Kerr – A story of a girl and her family trying to escape Nazi Gaermany

Freiderich by Hans Peter Richter – A novel about two boys who grow up together during Hitler's rise to power

Hannah Gosler remembers by Alison Leslie Gold – tells the true story of Anne Frank's friend and her story of what happened to her family

The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe – The story of Dita Adler who arrives in Auschwitz and is sent to the Children's Camp

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris – Based on the true story of Lale Sokolov and how he fell in love with a Jew he was tattooing in Auschwitz

Recommended: The Good Doctor of Warsaw by Elizabeth Gifford – set in the ghettos of wartime Warsaw

The Pianist by Wladyslaw Szpilman – the story of one Jew who survived in the ghettos of Warsaw against all of the odds

Auschwitz: The Nazis and the Final Solution by Laurence Rees – a thorough explanation of how and why the Holocaust happened

World War Two

Our Castle by the Sea by Lucy Strange – It's England in 1940: Pet's lighthouse home becomes a terrifying battleground, and her family is torn apart.

Voices: Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story by Bali Rai – Private Fazal Khan journeys from his home in India to the battlefields of the Second World War and makes his way to Dunkirk.

The Endless Steppe by Esther Hautzig – Based on the author's childhood story of exile to Siberia during World War Two.

Recommended: The Eagle has Landed by Jack Higgins – The Second World War and the German government has given orders to capture Winston Churchill.

Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse – It's Amsterdam, 1943, and Hanneke is rebelling against the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands by working the black market.

When We Were Warriors by Emma Carroll – Ordinary children living in the extraordinary times of the Second World War.

Postcards from No Man's Land by Aidan Chambers – Jacob's grandfather's grave is in the Netherlands, as he died in the Second World War Battle of Arnhem. It's a story of passion and treachery.

Bomber by Paul Dowswell – The crew member of an American Flying Fortress has to make his way back from behind enemy lines. (If you like this book, look for other tales of wartime flying by the same author.)

Recommended: The Machine Gunners by Robert Westall – Young lads compete to have the most bounty, and the discovery of the remains of a German bomber crashed in the woods changes it all. ***The Kingdom by the Sea*** and ***Blitzcat*** (recommended) are by the same author and set in the same period.

The boy at the top of the mountain by John Boyne – In 1935 Pierrot becomes an orphan and must leave his home in Paris for a new life with his Aunt Beatrix, a servant in a wealthy household at the top of the German mountains.

Recommended: Goodnight, Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian – A young evacuee leaves a terrible life and finds a loving home with a gruff, kindly man, but what will happen when he has to return home?

Where Eagles Dare by Alistair Maclean – A secret ops missions to rescue a crashed American general from a remote Gestapo HQ before the Nazis can force him to reveal secret D-Day plans. ***Force 10 from Navarone*** is another Second World War thriller by the same author.

The Things We Did for Love by Natasha Farrant – A tale of spies and resistance in a French village in 1944.

One Day in Oradour by Helen Watts – Just after D-Day in 1944, SS troops wiped out an entire French village. A total of 644 men, women and children died that day. Just one child survived.

Empire of the Sun by J.G. Ballard – The author's own memories of Japanese-occupied wartime Shanghai – of war, of starvation and survival, of internment camps and of death marches.

The Silver Sword by Ian Serraillier – Alone and fending for themselves in a Poland devastated by the Second World War, Jan and his three homeless friends cling to the silver sword as a symbol of hope.

All the Light we Cannot See by Anthony Doerr – A book about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of the Second World War.

Back Home by Michelle Magorian – Rusty has been away for five years, evacuated to the USA for the duration of the Second World War. The 'home' she returns to is strange. You might also like ***A Cuckoo in the Nest***, about a young boy in post-war Britain who dreams of being an actor. Also, ***A Spoonful of Jam***, in which a young girl struggles to relate to her father, who has returned from the war, and ***Just Henry***, in which a young boy distracts himself from the pain of losing his father in the war by going to the cinema.

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys – In early 1945, desperate people trek across Germany to reach the ship Wilhelm Gustloff. Altogether, 9,000 refugees set sail…

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Wolf Children by Paul Dowswell – It is July 1945 and Berlin is in ruins. Living on the edge of survival in the cellar of an abandoned hospital, Otto and his ragtag gang of kids have banded together in the desperate, bombed-out city.

Medicine Through Time

Sawbones by Catherine Johnson – 16-year-old Ezra McAdam has much to be thankful for: trained up as an apprentice by a well-regarded London surgeon, Ezra's knowledge of human anatomy and skill at the dissection table will secure him a trade for life

Fleshmarket by Nicola Morgan - set in Edinburgh in 1828, the story revolves around Robbie and his involvement with famous surgeon Dr Robert Knox and grave robbers Burke and Hare.

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman – A young girl is apprenticed to a midwife, and medieval village life provides the backdrop.

Recommended: *The Butchering Art* by Lindsey Fitzharris – a non-fiction book that covers the development of surgery in the 19th century.

No Place for Ladies by Helen Rappaport – this tells the story of those women who worked as nurses during the Crimean War, who have been overshadowed by Florence Nightingale

The Rose of Sebastopol by Katherine McMahon – Mariella volunteers to nurse in the Crimea and is horrified by what she finds there

American West

Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder – The famous first tale in a series about a family of settlers on the prairies of the USA. There are seven more books in the same series.

Crow Mountain by Lucy Inglis – Lives entangled across the centuries in the mountains of Montana.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London - Buck is stolen from his home in California and sold into service as a sled dog during the Klondike gold rush in Alaska. He progressively reverts to a wild state in the harsh climate, where he is forced to fight to dominate other dogs.

Stop the train by Geraldine McCaughrean - it's 1893 and for Cissy and her family, a new life beckons on the prairies of Oklahoma as they and their fellow settlers prepare for steady business alongside the Red Rock Railroad track.

Sarah, plain and tall by Patricia McClachlan - Sarah Elisabeth Wheaton comes from Maine to the prairie to answer Anna's papa's advertisement for a wife and mother.

Henry VIII

The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory – a fiction novel that follows the story of Anne Boleyn's sister, Mary, as she watches the rise and fall of her famous sister

Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel – This story follows the rise of Thomas Cromwell to become the King's most important advisor

Eliza Rose and *Lady Mary* by Lucy Worsley – Follow the story of Henry VIII and the divorce from his first wife

Anne Boleyn and Me by Alison Prince – story told by Anne Boleyn of her life and reign

Nazi Germany

If the dead rise not by Philip Kerr – crime fiction for older readers set in Berlin in 1934. As the city prepares to host the 1936 Olympics, Bernie is house detective at the famous Adlon Hotel when two bodies are found - one a businessman and the other a Jewish boxer. There are several other titles in this series if you like this.

Ashes by Kathryn Lasky - Gabriella favourite pastime is reading. But then her country's tensions rise, the streets fill with soldiers, Gaby's sister's boyfriend raises his arm in a Heil Hitler salute and a family friend - Albert Einstein - flees the country. Can she keep reading?

The Extra by Kathryn Lasky - one ordinary afternoon, fifteen-year-old Lilo and her family are suddenly picked up by Hitler's police and imprisoned. Then Lilo is chosen by filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl to work as a film extra.

Tamar by Mal Peet - When her grandfather dies, Tamar inherits a box containing a series of clues and coded messages. Out of the past, another Tamar emerges, a man involved in the terrifying world of resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied Holland half a century earlier.

HHhH by Lauren Binet - Two men have been enlisted to kill the head of the Gestapo. This is Operation Anthropoid, Prague, 1942: two Czechoslovakian parachutists sent on a daring mission by London to assassinate Reinhard Heydrich - chief of the Nazi secret services, 'the hangman of Prague', 'the blond beast', 'the most dangerous man in the Third Reich'.

Emily and the detectives by Erich Kastner- Emil is excited to be taking the train on his own for the first time. He doesn't like the look of his fellow passenger, the man in the bowler hat. Emil will just have to keep his wits about him and his money in his pocket. But Emil falls asleep and when he wakes up the man in the bowler hat is gone - and so is the money! Emil is determined to get it back. He teams up with a gang of young detectives and so begins a hair-raising chase across Berlin to catch the dirty rotten thief...

Alone in Berlin by Hans Fallada – A couple who have lost their son in WWII decide to start opposing the Nazis

The Nazis: A warning from History by Laurence Rees – An examination of how Hitler came to power in 1933

Recommended: *Two Brothers* by Ben Elton – a story of two brothers growing up in Berlin with very different lives after the First World War