

History

If you wonder what the past was like—dozens or hundreds or thousands of years ago—you've come to the right place. Good historical fiction creates a vivid picture of life as it once was, combining fascinating details with compelling stories so you don't notice that you're getting a history lesson.

The books below transport you to fantastic and frightening settings, including ancient Troy (*Adele Geras*), London in Shakespeare's time (*Anthony Horowitz*), northern Europe when Viking longboats ruled the waves (*Judson Roberts*), pre-World War Two Germany (*David Chotjewitz*), wet and murky Edinburgh during the early 19th century (*Nicola Morgan*), Russia during the Red Revolution (*Marcus Sedgwick*), elegant Renaissance Venice (*Donna Jo Napoli*), the Holy Land during the Crusades (*Catherine Jinks*), 18th century Japan (*Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler*), and a boarding school in Victorian England (*Libba Bray*; please note that her books feature fantasy elements).

If you prefer less land-locked locales, try *Michael Cadnum's Raven of the Waves* (about Vikings), *Celia Rees' Pirates!*, *V.A. Richardson's House of Windjammer* or *Iain Lawrence's* books (about smugglers, wreckers, buccaneers and prison-ships).

For stories featuring royal crowns and cruel conspiracies, try *Tracy Barrett*, *Karleen Bradford* and *Jane Yolen*. Looking for girl power? *Karen Cushman*, *Julie Hearn* and *Celia Rees* write about plucky young women escaping traditional female roles.

For science fiction with a historical edge, try **The New World Order** (2004) by *Ben Jeapes* (Y JEA), which describes an extra-dimensional invasion by human-like beings during the English Civil War. You might also like time travel stories such as *Chris Robertson's Here, There and Everywhere* (Y ROB), *Susan Price's A Sterkarm Handshake* (Y PRI), or *Eric Flint's* books **1632**, **1633** and **1634 : The Galileo Affair** (Y FLI), which are set during the Thirty Years War in Europe.

For fantasies with historical elements, try *Mary Hoffman's Stravaganza* books (Y HOF), which take place in a dreamworld similar to 16th century Italy, or *Sally Gardner's I, Coriander* (Y GAR), a book about a half-human, half-fairy girl that features great descriptions of 17th century London.

Y AND

Fever, 1793

by Laurie Halse Anderson

In 1793 Philadelphia, 16-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic. (2000)

Y BAR

Anna of Byzantium

by Tracy Barrett

In the 11th century, teenage princess Anna Comnena fights for her birthright, the throne to the Byzantine Empire, which she fears will be taken from her by her younger brother John and "barbarians" from foreign lands. (1999)

Y BLA

The Year of the Hangman

by Gary Blackwood

In this alternate history, Blackwood imagines America in 1777 after the British win the Revolutionary War. Employed as a spy for the British, teenaged Creighton keeps tabs on escaped Revolutionary leaders such as Benjamin Franklin, who now runs a paper in Louisiana. Will Creighton remain loyal to the British, or side with the Americans, whom he respects and trusts? (2004)

Y BRA

The Nine Days Queen

by Karleen Bradford

At 15, Lady Jane Dudley is crowned Queen of England. Days later, she is locked in the Tower of London, awaiting her execution. Will anyone save her after her remarkable fall from grace? (1986)

Y BRA

A Great and Terrible Beauty

by Libba Bray

Troubled by disturbing visions, 16-year-old Gemma and her mates at Spence, a boarding school in Victorian England, discover a menace that threatens them all. (2004) Followed by **Rebel Angels** (2005) and **The Sweet Far Thing** (2007).

Y CAD

Raven of the Waves

by Michael Cadnum

In 8th century Europe, 17-year-old Lidsmod departs on his first Viking raid, which takes him to the coast of England, where he clashes with a young monk's apprentice named Wiglaf. (2001) Cadnum has also reimagined the tales of Robin Hood in the books **In a Dark Wood** (which is told from the Sheriff of Nottingham's point of view) and **Forbidden Forest** (2002).

Y CHO

Daniel, Half-Human and the Good Nazi

by David Chotjewitz

In 1930s Germany, Daniel and his friend Armin join a new Nazi party movement, the Hitler Youth—until Daniel learns he is half-Jewish. After discovering the truth, the authorities force Daniel out of the movement and pressure Armin, a rising star, to sever ties with him. Can their friendship survive? (2004)

CUSHMAN, Karen

Catherine, Called Birdy

At the end of the 12th Century, Catherine must use her intelligence and wits to avoid an arranged marriage between herself and an old, rich, shaggy-bearded suitor. (1994) If you liked this book, check out **The Midwife's Apprentice** (1995) and **Matilda Bone** (2000).

Y FRI

Nobody's Prize

by Esther Friesner

Disguising herself as a boy, headstrong Helen – who will one day be Helen of Troy – rebels against the social mores of her time by going on adventures and learning to fight and hunt. (2007) Followed by **Nobody's Princess** (2008).

Y GER

Troy

by Adele Geras

Inside the walled city of Troy, teenaged Xanthe works as a healer in the "blood room," where injured warriors are taken. She and her sister Marpessa, one of Helen's servants, find themselves drawn into a complex tangle of romantic relationships during the long-running siege. Gods and mortals exist together in the ancient city in Geras' version of the classic story. (2001) Followed by **Ithaka**. (2006)

Y HEA

The Minister's Daughter

by Julie Hearn

During the English Civil War in 1645, the daughter of a church minister blames her pregnancy on a local "witch" and her teenage daughter, Nell. Can Nell escape her resulting date with the hangman? (2005)

Y HOF

The Falconer's Knot

by Mary Hoffman

During the Middle Ages in Italy, 16-year-old Silvano flees after someone uses his dagger to kill the husband of the girl he loves. The killings continue even after he takes refuge in a friary. The only way to salvage his reputation – and his love life – is to apprehend the murderer. (2007)

Y DOB

In Darkness, Death

by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler

Judge Ooka and his adopted son Seikei investigate the murder of Lord Inaba, who was apparently killed by a ninja, a professional assassin. With only one clue to work with—a bloodstained origami butterfly—the two attempt to track the killer. (2004) Judge Ooka and Seikei also appear in **The Demon in the Teahouse**.

Y HOO

At the Sign of the Sugared Plum

by Mary Hooper

Hannah arrives in London in 1665 to help her sister run her sweetmeats shop just as the Black Plague strikes the city. While at first the disease seems relegated to the poorer sections of the city, it gradually creeps closer. Soon nearby houses are being shut up and neighbours and acquaintances are dying. (2003) Followed by **Petals in the ashes** (2004).

Y HOR

The Devil and His Boy

by Anthony Horowitz

In 16th century England, Tom is having a rough time. Things start to look up when he is asked to be the lead in a play that will be performed in front of Queen Elizabeth! Little does he know that by getting involved he is putting himself in grave danger. (2000) From the author of the Alex Rider adventures.

Y JIN

Pagan's Crusade

by Catherine Jinks

Sixteen-year-old Pagan Kidrouk becomes a squire for the Knights Templar, who have helped to conquer the Holy Land during the Crusades. Given the task of escorting pilgrims to the River Jordan and back, Pagan and his master are unaware that Muslim armies are grouping for a major counter-attack. (2003) Followed by **Pagan in Exile**, **Pagan's Vows** and **Pagan's Scribe**.

Y LAW

The Convicts

by Iain Lawrence

After being convicted of a murder he didn't commit in 19th century London, Tom Tin is placed on a prison ship bound for Australia. To make matters worse, he has an enemy on-board, so Tom hatches an escape plan with a wretched youth named Midgely. (2005) For more high seas adventure, try Lawrence's **The Smugglers** (1999), **The Wreckers** (1998) and **The Buccaneers** (2001). Another book by the B.C. author, **B for Buster** (2004) is about Kak, a youth from the far north who joins the air force and flies terrifying missions over Germany during World War Two.

Y MOR

A Higher Geometry

by Sharelle Byars Moranville

Anna Conway wants to study math at college; her family expects her to marry and have children, as is the norm in the 1950s. After unexpectedly falling in love, Anna must choose between her two passions. (2006)

Y MOR

Fleshmarket

by Nicola Morgan

Living in Edinburgh in the early 1800s, 14-year-old Robbie Anderson helps a couple of creepy bodysnatchers steal corpses for a surgeon who conducts medical experiments. Before long, Robbie becomes convinced that the bodysnatchers are “creating” some of the corpses themselves—by killing innocent people. (2004)

Y NAP

The Smile

by Donna Jo Napoli

When Leonardo da Vinci introduces Elisabetta to a young nobleman in Florence, she has no idea of the romance, and the tragedy, that will follow. (2008) Napoli has written several other books set in the Renaissance, including **Daughter of Venice**. In it, 14-year-old Donata is a pampered member of a noble family. Forbidden to marry, she disguises herself as a boy and experiences the city as she never would have imagined it. (2002)

Y ODE

The Road to Damietta

by Scott O'Dell

Over time, a carefree youth in 13th century Italy transforms himself into one of the best-known holy men of all time: St. Francis of Assisi. See the saint through the eyes of one of his adorers, young noblewoman Ricca di Montanaro, who follows him on his travels. (2004)

Y REE

Pirates!

by Celia Rees

Suddenly orphaned when her father dies, Nancy Kington is sent to live on her family's plantation in Jamaica. Disgusted by the treatment of the slaves and her brother's willingness to marry her off, she and one of the slaves, Minerva, run away and join a band of pirates. (2003)

Y RIC

The House of Windjammer : Book One

by V.A. Richardson

When a storm swallows his family's trading fleet in 1636, Dutch teen Adam Windjammer goes in search of the Black Pearl, a treasure valuable enough to salvage their floundering business. But what is the Black Pearl, and can he outwit evil banker Hugo van Helson to find it? (2003) Followed by **The Moneylender's Daughter** (2006) and **The Street of Knives** (2008).

Y ROB

Viking Warrior : Denmark A.D. 845

by Judson Roberts

Through his mother's tragic sacrifice, teenaged Halfdan – a slave – gains his freedom and begins training to become a great warrior. (2006) Followed by **Dragons from the Sea** (2007).

Y ROB

I Am the Great Horse

by Katherine Roberts

Much has been written about Alexander the Great, who led one of the mightiest armies of the ancient world, but nothing – until now – from the point of view of his horse. The powerful mount Bucephalus provides a unique perspective on the Macedonian conqueror in Roberts' imaginative tale. (2006)

Y SAN

Song of the Sparrow

by Lisa Ann Sandell

In fifth century England, Germanic invaders are striking the coasts, opposed only by a valiant few, including the battle leader Arthur. Living in a military camp, the teenaged Elaine treats wounds and despairs of brave warriors dying in a war they cannot win. Written in verse. (2007)

Y SED

Blood Red, Snow White

by Marcus Sedgwick

Writer Arthur Ransome leaves his family in England to become a spy in one of the most dangerous countries in the world at the most dangerous time in its history: Russia during the Bolshevik Revolution. (2007)

Y STE

The Dark Tower

by Sharon Stewart

Marie Therese, daughter of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, spent her childhood at lavish Versailles until the outbreak of the French Revolution. Now imprisoned in a castle, she waits while revolutionaries take her family away, one by one, for appointments with the guillotine. When will they come for her? (1998)

Y TUR

Forged in the fire

by Ann Turnball

The plague is spreading in 1665 London, but unbeknownst to its citizens, a greater threat – one that will both devastate and cleanse the metropolis – is in the offing. Can Will and Susanna survive the dangers to marry, or will their love, like Romeo and Juliet's, prove to be star-crossed? (2007)

Y WHE

The Turning

by Gloria Whelan

Katya is the daughter of a lady-in-waiting in Russia. When the First World War sweeps across Europe, igniting a revolution in her home country, Katya's once-certain future disappears in a cloud of dust, snow and blood. (2006) Whelan's **Angel on the Square** (2001) also deals with the First World War and the years leading up to the Russian Revolution.

Y YOL

Queen's Own Fool: A Novel of Mary Queen of Scots

by Jane Yolen and Robert J. Harris

Yolen offers a fascinating take on the life of Mary Queen of Scots in this epic novel narrated by a female Jester, La Jardiniere. (2000)

A note on finding books ...

Young Adult fiction is filed from A to Z under the first three letters of the author's LAST NAME. To find Gloria Whelan's **The Turning**, you would need to look for the letters WHE, near the end of the YA fiction area.

All fiction books (and a few non-fiction books) that are less than a year old go in the **new books** area, which is marked by a sign. At Poirier Library, **graphic novels** are on a shelving unit in the corner of the Young Adult area. At City Centre Library, the graphic novels are underneath the teen magazines, just to the left of the new books.

Collections of **short stories**—themed around a certain topic (ghost stories) or by a particular author—are filed just after the Z authors.

If a Young Adult book you want ISN'T ON THE SHELF, try looking on the **paperback spinners** in the Young Adult area. Most of the paperbacks are filed under the first letter of the author's LAST NAME. For Iain Lawrence books, you would look for "L" in the paperback spinners. Signs on top of the paperback spinners tell you which author letters are in each spinner.

Books on the paperback spinners DO NOT APPEAR in the online library catalogue. In other words, you cannot find them on computer. So when the computer says a book is out, it means just the copies it knows about. You might still find it on the paperback spinners.

Note that the paperback spinners include special categories, such as **series books** (Sweet Valley High, Dragonlance, Cirque Du Freak), **mysteries**, **science fiction** and **classics** by authors such as Jane Austen and Charles Dickens. Look for the headings above each spinner to make sure you're looking in the right place.

If you have any trouble finding a book, please consult a librarian at the reference desk. They are happy to help you.

Updated December 2008