

History

Reading

The best historians read a lot so that they know more about the subject and get better at using language. Try some of the following books (in rough chronological order):

Year 7

Terry Deary: *The Horrible Histories*

- You've probably heard of these!

Jim Eldridge: *Roman Invasion*

- A novel set in the time of Roman Britain

Alex Scarrow: *Time Riders*

- Time-travelling adventures set in Ancient Rome and the Middle Ages

Kevin Crossley-Holland: *Arthur and the Seeing Stone*

- The first of a trilogy set in Medieval England

Joanna Courtney: *The Conqueror's Queen*

- The story of 1066 from the perspective of William's wife

Philippa Gregory: *Changeling*

- It's 1453 and all signs point to the end of the world

Sellar and Yeatman: *1066 and All That*

- Classic comic account of British History

Year 8

Cynthia Harnett: *Stars of Fortune*

- What happened when Elizabeth I was imprisoned by Mary I?

Susan Cooper: *King of Shadows*

- A time travel adventure set in the world of Shakespeare

Celia Rese: *Witch Child*

- A horror mystery set in the sixteenth century witch hunts
-

Berlie Doherty: *Children of Winter*

- A village isolated by the plague in the 1600s

Jennifer Donnelly: *Revolution*

- A seventeen-year-old in Paris uncovers a diary from the French Revolution revealing the lost King of France

Stephen Crane: *Red badge of courage*

- A novel describing the cruelty of the American Civil War

Malorie Blackman: *Noughts and Crosses*

- An alternative history when Africans enslaved Europeans

Jacqueline Wilson: *Hettie Feather* and *Sapphire Battersea*

- Simple stories set in Victorian times

Berlie Doherty: *Street Child*

- The story behind the foundation of Dr Barnardo's children's homes

Year 9

Simon Sebag Montefiore: *Monsters: History's most evil men and women*

Michael Morpurgo: *Private Peaceful*, *Warhorse*

- Novels set in the First World War

Erich Maria Remarque: *All Quiet on the Western Front*

- A description of the horrors of the First World War from the perspective of a German soldier in the trenches.

Harper Lee: *To kill a Mockingbird*

- A description of racial equality in 1930s America.

Anne Frank: The diary of Anne Frank

- The experiences of a Jewish girl during the Second World War.

Judith Kerr: *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*

John Boyne: *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*

- The holocaust from the perspective of a young boy

Philippe Sands: *Ratline*

- A Nazi war criminal on the run

Roald Dahl: *Going solo*

- The true story of Dahl's experiences in Africa and then as a pilot during the Second World War.

Michelle Magorian: *Goodnight Mr Tom*

- The story of a young Second World War and the old man who cares for him.

Robert Westell: *The Machine Gunners*

- The adventures of a group of children in the North East of England during the Blitz.

Morton Rhue: *The Wave*

- An American high school experiment to understand Nazism gets out of hand.

George Orwell: *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

- An attack on totalitarianism

Tom Sharpe: *Riotous assembly*

- A novel set in South Africa under apartheid regime.

Vocabulary

Learn 10 new words from a dictionary: Try to use them in your writing or conversation this week!

Challenge essays

Try one of these...

“History has been shaped by villains not heroes.” How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

“The First World War was the bloodiest war in History.” How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

“There is too much focus on wars in school History.” How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

“There is no point learning about the past.” How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

Or make up your own question using the style above

Local History

Do some research into local History. Visit a museum or historical site, or find out about members of your family.

Podcasts

History Hit

- Varied and entertaining podcasts from TV historian Dan Snow.

Programmes and Films

Watch one of these programmes or films. Think about how useful it is to historians (provenance and how far it agrees with your contextual knowledge of the period).

Blackadder

Glory

Testament of Youth

Wipers Times
The Great Gatsby
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
Hope and Glory
Pearl Harbour
Jojo Rabbit
The Zookeeper's Wife
Warhorse
Valkyrie
Forrest Gump
JFK
The Imitation Game



History in the News

Find a story in a newspaper or news website that relates to History. How does it link to the past