**Historical Fiction Through The Ages**

**Prehistoric**

**The Clan of the Cave Bear Series** by Jean Auel
After a natural disaster kills Ayla’s tribe, members of the Clan of the Cave Bear find her and mistrust her because her blonde hair and blue eyes are different, but she eventually helps them. First book in the Earth’s Children series.

**Mother Earth Father Sky Series** by Sue Harrison
During the last Ice Age, a young Indian woman embarks on a personal quest for survival and revenge. First book in the Ivory Carver trilogy.

**Ancient World**

**The Red Tent** by Anita Diamant
The story of Dinah, a tragic character from the Bible whose great love, a prince, is killed by her brothers, leaving her alone and pregnant. The novel traces her life from childhood to her death.

**The Source** by James Michener
An archaeological excavation of Tell Makor launches a journey into the history and culture of the Jews that includes the early Hebrews, the impact of Christianity, the Spanish Inquisition, and the modern Middle East conflict.

**Medieval Europe**

**The Name of the Rose** by Umberto Eco
In the early 14th century, the English monk William, visiting at a Cluny abbey in Italy, solves a murder.

**The Pillars of the Earth** by Ken Follett
Set in twelfth-century England, this epic of kings and peasants juxtaposes the building of a magnificent church with the violence and treachery that often characterized the Middle Ages. First of two books in the Kingsbridge Series.

**The Physician** by Noah Gordon
While Rob Cole travels around the English countryside with a barber-surgeon in the 11th century, he yearns to learn the art of healing and arranges to study with Ibn Sina, a Moslem physician in Persia.

**Timeline** by Michael Crichton
Quantum theory combines with the medieval past in a suspenseful adventure.

**Renaissance**

**The Birth of Venus** by Sarah Dunant
Turning fifteen in Renaissance Florence, Alessandra Cecchi becomes intoxicated with the works of a young painter whom her father has brought to the city to decorate the family’s Florentine palazzo.

**Girl with a Pearl Earring** by Tracy Chevalier
A poor 17th century servant girl knows her place in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer, but when he begins to paint her, nasty whispers and rumors circulate throughout the town.

**Revolutionary War**

**The Bastard** by John Jakes
The illiterate son of a French nobleman flees Europe to join in the turbulent events that began the American Revolution. First book in the Kent Family Chronicles.

**Colonial Era**

**A Bride Most Begrudging** by Deanne Gist
Set in 1640’s Colonial Virginia, a marriage of convenience becomes most inconvenient when the bride proves more than the planter had bargained for. First in Brides Series.

**Fever** by Laurie Halse Anderson – Teen Section
In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-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.

**Follow the River** by James Alexander Thom
After being captured in an Indian raid during 1755, Mary Draper Ingles follows the Ohio River for 1,000 miles to return home to Virginia by herself.

**A Sacred Hunger** by Barry Unsworth
En route to America with a cargo of African slaves, the crew of the “Liverpool Merchant,” enraged at the captain’s impotence in the face of disease, carry out a mutiny that pits two cousins against each other.

**The Witch of Blackbird Pond** by Elizabeth George Speare – Teen Section
A young woman brought up in Barbados comes to live with her uncle in Connecticut, and finds their Puritan way of life difficult after her unconventional upbringing.
**The Old West**

**The Diary of Mattie Spencer** by Sandra Dallas
The young wife of a homesteader in Colorado Territory gives a bright, fresh shading to the tragedies and small sharp joys of 19th-century frontier life.

**One Thousand White Women** by Jim Fergus
An Indian request in 1854 for 1,000 white brides to ensure peace is secretly approved by the U.S. government in this alternate-history novel. Their journey west is described by May Dodd, a high-society woman released from an asylum where she was incarcerated by her family for an affair.

**These is My Words** by Nancy E. Turner
In 1881, Sarah Agnes Prine, 17, goes from New Mexico to Texas and back, protecting her family with her rifle, and then becoming ranch manager while her second husband serves as a Texas Ranger.

**Civil War**

**All-true Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton** by Jane Smiley
In Quincy, Illinois, Lidie, 20, marries abolitionist Thomas Newton and goes with him to Kansas, but when Thomas is murdered, she disguises herself to get revenge.

**Cloudsplitter** by Russell Banks
John Brown preaches against slavery, and he plans to overtake the arsenal at Harper’s Ferry.

**North and South** by John Jakes
The rice-growing Mains family from South Carolina meets the iron-producing Hazards from Pennsylvania at West Point in 1842. First book in the North and South Trilogy.

**Conquistadora** by Esmeralda Santiago
Drawn to the exotic island of Puerto Rico by the diaries of an ancestor who traveled there with Ponce de Leon, Ana Cubillas becomes involved with enamored twin brothers Ramon and Inocente before convincing them to claim a sugar plantation they have inherited.

**Sea of Poppies** by Amitav Ghosh
Preparing to fight China’s nineteenth-century Opium Wars, a motley assortment of sailors and passengers establish family-like ties that eventually span continents, races, and generations. First book in the Ibis Trilogy.

**True Sisters** by Sandra Dallas
Joining the ranks of emigrants responding to Brigham Young’s edict to move to Salt Lake City with two-wheeled handcarts as their only mode of travel, four women share a grueling journey of survival that tests the bonds of their friendship and faith.

**World War I**

**Fall of Giants** by Ken Follett
Follows the fates of five interrelated families—American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh—as they move through the dramas of the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women’s suffrage.

**Industrial Era**

**The House of Mirth** by Edith Wharton
A portrait of American manners and morals at the turn of the century offers the saga of Lily Bart, a beautiful heroine who lacks one requirement for marrying well in New York society—her own money.

**The Jungle** by Upton Sinclair
Jurgis Rudkus, a Lithuanian immigrant lured by appealing advertisements, comes to Chicago to make money in the stockyards, but the reality is different from what he expects.

**20th Century**

**The Buddha in the Attic** by Julie Otsuka
Presents the stories of six Japanese mail-order brides whose new lives in early twentieth-century San Francisco are marked by backbreaking migrant work, cultural struggles, children who reject their heritage, and the prospect of wartime internment.

**The Cat’s Table** by Michael Ondaatje
In the early 1950s, an eleven-year-old boy in Colombo boards a ship bound for England. Looking back from adulthood, the narrator relates a tale about the magical, often forbidden, discoveries of childhood and a lifelong journey that begins unexpectedly with a sea voyage.

**The Dressmaker** by Kate Alcott
A spirited young maid on board the Titanic captures the attentions of two men including a kindhearted sailor and an enigmatic Chicago millionaire and barely escapes with her life.

**The Immigrants** by Howard Fast
Three California families interact from the time of the San Francisco earthquake through World War I and the Depression. First book in The Immigrants Series

**Persian Pickle Club** by Sandra Dallas
When city girl Rita marries local boy Tom and they move back to the farm, Queenie Bean goes out of her way to welcome them. She also encourages Rita to become part of the local quilting group, known as the Persian Pickle Club

* Descriptions provided by Novelist