

good historical fictions for kids

Good historical fictions for kids are not just stories; they are gateways to understanding the past, immersing young readers in different cultures, important events, and the lives of fascinating characters. Through engaging narratives, children can explore history in a way that is both educational and entertaining. This article will delve into some of the best historical fiction books for kids, helping to inspire a love for reading and a curiosity about history.

The Importance of Historical Fiction for Kids

Historical fiction serves a crucial role in children's literature. It provides several benefits that can aid in their intellectual and emotional development:

- **Cultural Awareness:** Historical fiction introduces children to cultures and traditions different from their own, fostering empathy and understanding.
- **Critical Thinking:** Through character-driven narratives, kids learn to analyze historical events and their consequences, developing critical thinking skills.
- **Imagination and Creativity:** The imaginative settings and characters spark creativity, encouraging kids to envision the past in unique ways.
- **Engagement with History:** Reading about historical events through a fictional lens makes history more relatable and engaging for young readers.

Top Good Historical Fictions for Kids

Here are some outstanding historical fiction books for children that not only entertain but also educate:

1. "Number the Stars" by Lois Lowry

Set during World War II in Nazi-occupied Denmark, this poignant story follows a young girl named Annemarie Johansen as she helps her Jewish friend escape from the Nazis. Through her bravery, children learn about the impact of war and the importance of friendship and courage.

2. "The Witch of Blackbird Pond" by Elizabeth George Speare

This novel transports readers to the Puritan settlement of Wethersfield, Connecticut, in 1687. Kit Tyler, a young girl from Barbados, struggles to fit into the rigid Puritan society. This book addresses themes of individuality, acceptance, and the historical context of witch trials.

3. "The War That Saved My Life" by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Set during World War II, this story follows Ada, a young girl with a clubfoot, who escapes her abusive mother and finds safety in the English countryside. This inspiring tale highlights themes of resilience, love, and the transformative power of kindness.

4. "Chains" by Laurie Halse Anderson

"Chains" tells the story of Isabel, a young enslaved girl during the American Revolution. As she

navigates the complexities of freedom and loyalty, readers gain insight into the harsh realities of slavery and the fight for independence.

5. "A Single Shard" by Linda Sue Park

Set in 12th-century Korea, this story focuses on a young orphan named Tree-ear who dreams of becoming a potter. Through his journey, readers learn about the artistry of pottery and the cultural significance of craftsmanship in historical Korea.

Historical Fiction by Age Group

When selecting historical fiction for kids, it's essential to consider their age group. Here are some recommended books categorized by age:

For Early Readers (Ages 5–8)

- **"If You Lived At The Time of The American Revolution" by Kay Moore** - An informative introduction to the American Revolution for young readers.
- **"Sarah, Plain and Tall" by Patricia MacLachlan** - A touching story about family and love set in the American Midwest during the late 19th century.
- **"The Little House" by Virginia Lee Burton** - A classic tale of a house's life and changes over time, illustrating early 20th-century America.

For Middle Readers (Ages 9–12)

- "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak - Set in Nazi Germany, this unique narrative is told from Death's point of view and follows a girl's love for books amidst the horrors of war.
- "Fever 1793" by Laurie Halse Anderson - A gripping tale of a young girl's survival during the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia.
- "Inside Out and Back Again" by Thanhha Lai - This novel-in-verse recounts the journey of a young Vietnamese girl who immigrates to America after the Vietnam War.

For Young Adults (Ages 13 and Up)

- "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak - This award-winning novel follows a young girl in Nazi Germany who finds solace in stealing books and sharing them with others.
- "Salt to the Sea" by Ruta Sepetys - A moving story based on the true events of the sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff during World War II, told from multiple perspectives.
- "Out of the Easy" by Ruta Sepetys - Set in 1950s New Orleans, this novel follows a young girl escaping her troubled past and seeking a better future.

How to Encourage Kids to Read Historical Fiction

Promoting historical fiction can be made enjoyable and engaging through various strategies:

- **Book Clubs:** Organize or join a book club focused on historical fiction to discuss themes and characters.
- **Connect with History:** Relate the stories to historical events or figures that kids learn about in school.
- **Incorporate Multimedia:** Use films, documentaries, or historical websites to provide context and enrich the reading experience.
- **Family Reading Time:** Set aside time for family reading sessions to share and discuss historical fiction books together.

Conclusion

Choosing good historical fictions for kids can foster a love for reading while providing valuable lessons about the past. Through relatable characters and engaging plots, these stories can help children understand complex historical events, develop empathy for others, and appreciate the richness of human experience. With a wealth of options available across different age groups, parents, educators, and young readers can find the perfect historical fiction to inspire a lifelong passion for learning.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some popular historical fiction books for middle-grade readers?

Some popular historical fiction books for middle-grade readers include 'Number the Stars' by Lois Lowry, 'The Witch of Blackbird Pond' by Elizabeth George Speare, and 'The War That Saved My Life' by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley.

How can historical fiction benefit children's understanding of history?

Historical fiction can benefit children's understanding of history by providing relatable characters and immersive narratives that bring historical events to life, making it easier for young readers to connect with and remember historical facts.

Are there any historical fiction series specifically for children?

Yes, there are several historical fiction series for children, such as the 'Dear America' series, which features diary entries from girls living in different periods of American history, and the 'I Survived' series by Lauren Tarshis, which explores various historical disasters.

What age group is most suitable for reading historical fiction?

Historical fiction can be suitable for a wide range of age groups, but typically, middle-grade readers (ages 8-12) and young adult readers (ages 12-18) are the primary audiences for many historical fiction titles.

Can you recommend a historical fiction book that focuses on a lesser-known event?

One recommended historical fiction book that focuses on a lesser-known event is 'Inside Out and Back Again' by Thanhha Lai, which tells the story of a young girl's experience during the Vietnam War and

her family's journey to America.

What themes are commonly explored in children's historical fiction?

Common themes explored in children's historical fiction include resilience, friendship, family dynamics, cultural identity, and social justice, often reflecting the struggles and triumphs of characters in specific historical contexts.

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