



CHURCH
STRETTON
SCHOOL

GCSE: History Reading List

The following books will help you to support your history studies.

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

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.

***Bury my heart at wounded Knee* by Dee Brown** – tells the story of the American Indians in the late 19th century

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..

Recommended: *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