Historical Fiction for Teens & Tweens

Scarlet by A.C. Gaughen
Posing as one of Robin Hood’s thieves to avoid the wrath of the evil Thief Taker Lord Gisbourne, Scarlet has kept her identity secret from all of Nottinghamshire.

Cross My Heart by Sasha Gould
Venice, 1585. When 16-year-old Laura della Scala learns that her older sister, Beatrice, has drowned, she is given no time to grieve. Instead, Laura’s father removes her from the convent and orders her to marry Beatrice’s fiancé.

Navigating Early by Clare Vanderpool
At the end of World War II, Jack Baker, a landlocked Kansas boy, is suddenly uprooted after his mother’s death and placed in a boy’s boarding school in Maine.

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick
Ben and Rose both wish their lives were different. Set 50 years apart, their two stories, Ben’s told with words and Rose’s told in pictures weave back and forth on a spectacular journey.

A Moment Comes by Jennifer Bradbury
In India in 1947, Tariq, a Muslim, finds himself caught between his forbidden interest in Anupreet, a Sikh girl, and Margaret, a British girl whose affection for him might help with his dream of studying at Oxford.

VIII by H. M. Castor
VIII is the story of Hal: a young, handsome and gifted warrior, who believes he has been chosen to lead his people. But he is plagued by the ghosts of his family’s violent past and once he rises to power, he turns to murder and rapacious cruelty. He is Henry VIII.

Tarnish by Katherine Longshore
Anne Boleyn is the odd girl out. So when the dashing poet Thomas Wyatt offers to coach her on how to shine at court—and to convince the whole court they’re lovers—she accepts.

Invasion by Walter Dean Myers
It’s May 1944. World War II is ramping up. People are filled with fear. When Josiah and Marcus come together in what will be the greatest test of their lives, they learn hard lessons about race, friendship, and what it really means to fight.

Sophia’s War by Avi
In 1776, young Sophia Calderwood witnesses the execution of Nathan Hale in New York City, which is newly occupied by the British army. Sophia is horrified by the event and resolves to do all she can to help the American cause.

Love Disguised by Lisa Klein
Will Shakespeare is about to meet the girl who will change his life forever. After a mixed-up courtship with the Hathaway sisters ends badly, Will jumps at the chance to go to London, where he can pursue his dream of becoming an actor.
I Was Jane Austen’s Best Friend by Cora Harrison
Cousin Jenny Cooper comes to live with the Austen Family after the girls became ill at boarding school. She finds romance with a handsome captain. Based on a true story.

Salt by Helen Frost
A verse novel about Anikwa and James, whose friendship is threatened by the War of 1812.

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys
In 1941, 15-year-old Lina and her family are pulled from their Lithuanian home and are sent to Siberia. Lina fights for her life and vows to honor her family.

OK for Now by Gary D. Schmidt
Doug has an abusive father, a bully of an older brother, and a mother who is powerless to help him. Set in the Vietnam era, Doug finds friends to help him cope.

Victoria Rebels by Carolyn Meyer
Written from Victoria’s point of view, the book chronicles her life from a young age up to the first several years of her reign as queen.

Cleopatra’s Moon by Vicky A. Shecter
Cleopatra Selene, the only surviving daughter of Cleopatra and Marc Antony, recalls her life of splendor in Egypt, and captivity in Rome.

Grave Mercy by Robin LaFevers
Seventeen-year-old Ismae escapes from the brutality of an arranged marriage into the sanctuary of the convent of St. Mortain, where the sisters still serve the gods of old.

A Death-Struck Year by Makia Lucier
When the Spanish Influenza strikes Oregon, Cleo volunteers for the Red Cross. As she nurses people back to health, including a handsome medical student, Cleo wonders when her luck will run out.

The Lost Crown by Sarah Miller
Told in alternating voices, the daughters of the last Tsar of Russia tell how their privileged lives were transformed by war and revolution.

Distant Waves by Susanne Weyn
Four sisters and their mother make their way from a spiritualist town in New York to London, meet scientist Nikola Tesla, and find themselves on the Titanic.

Crow by Barbara Wright
One generation away from slavery, a thriving African American community enfranchised and emancipated—suddenly and violently loses its freedom in turn of the century North Carolina.

A Mad, Wicked Folly by Sharon Biggs Waller
In 1909, Victoria Darling scandalizes her family by posing nude in an art class. Determined to be accepted to the Royal College of Art, she must try to accept an arranged engagement to a wealthy social climber.

One Came Home by Amy Timberlake
In Placid, Wisconsin, in 1871, Georgie Burkhardt sets out to find her missing sister and is not prepared for what she finds on the western frontier.

Breathing Room by Marsha Hayles
Evvy Hoffmeister is thirteen-years-old when her family brings her to Loon Lake Sanatorium to get cured of tuberculosis (TB). Evvy is frightened by her new surroundings, but soon meets friends.

Forge by Laurie Halse Anderson
This sequel to Chains continues the story of escaped slaves Abel and Curzon during the Revolutionary War.

Violins of Autumn by Amy McAuley
A 16-year-old American girl living in London lies about her age and becomes a spy in WWII. She meets a pilot delivering messages, and wonders if they will have a future together.

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein
It is WWII, and two young women from England, a pilot and a spy, forge an unforgettable friendship in the midst of the horrors of war.

No Crystal Stair by Vaunda Nelson
When a white banker told him to sell fried chicken, not books, Lewis Michaux took 5 books and $100 and built himself a bookstore in Harlem.