

Characteristics of Historical Fiction

1. **PACING** – Usually large books that unfold at a leisurely pace. Even shorter novels are densely written so they must be read slowly.
2. **STORY LINE** – May focus on a specific event or time period, they may follow a character (real or fictional). May raise difficult social or moral issues.
3. **CHARACTERIZATION** – May be real or fictional but fit into the time period. Their lives and actions are shaped by the historical times and details, not vice versa
4. **FRAME/SETTING** – Wealth of accurate historical detail relating to setting as well as characters and events.
5. **TONE/MOOD** – Mood varies widely, mood may be a factor (even if not acknowledged) in reading choices
6. **STYLE/LANGUAGE** – Can affect a reader's experience with the novel. Some readers appreciate an 'authentic' style and others find it distracting. Dialects and formats may also affect the reader's reaction.



Historical Fiction Writers to Try, If You Enjoy...

ADRENALINE:	C.C. Humphreys (Jack Absolute series) Conn Iggulden Tim Willocks
BIOGRAPHY:	Anchee Min
MEMOIR:	David Kehlmann (<i>Measuring the World</i>) Thomas Mallon Sena Jeter Naslund Alison Weir
FANTASY:	Judith Merkle Riley
GENTLE:	Eugenia Price Jeanne Williams
GAY/LESBIAN:	Sarah Waters
HISTORY:	Robert Alexander David Liss Steven Pressfield Alison Weir
HUMOR:	John Barth T. Coraghessan Boyle
HORROR:	Barbara Hambly
INSPIRATIONAL:	Orson Scott Card (Women of Genesis series) Linda Chaikin Halter Marek Gilbert Morris Francine Rivers
LITERARY:	Geraldine Brooks Tracy Chevalier Sena Jeter Naslund



	Iain Pears
MULTICULTURAL:	Alex Haley
	Laurence Hill
	Amy Tan
MYSTERY:	Louis Bayard
NATURAL HISTORY:	James Michener
	Elizabeth Redfern
	Edward Rutherford
ROMANCE:	Elizabeth Chadwick
	Sara Donati
	Ann Easter Smith
ROMANTIC SUSPENSE:	Judith Merkle Riley
SAGA:	Frank Delaney
	Jennifer Donnelly
	John Jakes
	Beverly Swerling
SCIENCE FICTION:	Martin Cruz Smith (<i>December 6</i>)
	Gore Vidal
TRAVEL:	James Michener
	Edward Rutherford
	Paul Scott (<i>The Raj Quartet</i>)
TRUE ADVENTURE:	Steven Pressfield
	Tim Willecks
WESTERN:	Ivan Doig
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Sandra Dallas
	Lisa See
	Susan Vreeland

Landscape Genres

Authors BEYOND the Historical Fiction Genre

ADRENALINE:	Dorothy Dunnett	
	Alan Furst	
	David Liss	
	Patrick O'Brian	
BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR:	Doris Kearns Goodwin	
	David McCullough	
FANTASY:	Susanna Clarke	
	Rosalind Miles (Tristan and Isolde Novels)	Naomi Novik
GENTLE:	Van Reid	
HISTORY:	Stephen Ambrose	David McCullough
	Ross King	
HORROR:	Dan Simmons (The Terror)	
LITERARY:	Peter Carey	Marilynne Robinson (Gilead)
MYSTERY:	P.C. Doherty	Anne Perry
	Jacqueline Winspear	
NATURAL HISTORY:	John McPhee	
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE:	Caleb Carr	
ROMANCE:	Jo Beverley	Jane Feather
	Mary Jo Putney	
SCIENCE FICTION:	Michael Flynn (Eifelheim)	Neal Stephenson (<i>Baroque Cycle</i>)
TRAVEL:	Bill Bryson	
TRUE ADVENTURE:	Tony Horwitz	Nathaniel Philbrick
TRUE CRIME:	Erik Larson	
WESTERN:	Don Coldsmith	Will Henry
WOMEN'S LIVES:	Jane Roberts Ward	

