

FURTHER READING

The following list details some suggested further reading. It includes historical works and historical fiction.

They are not compulsory but will enable students to maintain an interest in history within the subjects they will be studying, and also in areas of history that we do not cover.

Please note: this is **not** required reading. Many of these books are available in the library at school or upon request.

The Book Thief, by Marcus Zusak – set during 1930s Germany, tells the story of a girl who is exposed to the horrors of the Nazi Regime and tries to do something about it.

The Song of Achilles, by Madeline Miller – looks at the relationship between two of Homer's most enduring characters from his epic the *Iliad* – Achilles, demigod and hero, and Patroclus, his fellow warrior.

The 'Maus' Series, by Art Spiegelman – graphic novel which gives a harrowing account of a Polish Jew's life during and after the Holocaust by representing the Nazis as cats and the Jews as mice.

Here Lies Arthur, by Philip Reeve – set against the backdrop of the Anglo-Saxon migration to Britain in the 6th Century, tells the story of a girl who participates in the creation of the myth of King Arthur.

Chains, by Laurie Halse Anderson – tells the story of a slave owned by a Loyalist (British-supporting) family during the American Revolution who decides to spy on her owners.

The Alchemist, by Paulo Coelho – the story of a young shepherd's journey from Muslim Spain across North Africa to Egypt as he searches for buried treasure in the early medieval period.

The 'Gladiator' series, by Simon Scarrow – details the life of a Roman teenager who finds himself as a gladiator during the first century of the Roman Empire.

More challenging texts:

The Wolf Hall trilogy, by Dame Hilary Mantel – three epic novels expertly researched by Mantel which detail the life and times of Thomas Cromwell, chief minister of King Henry VIII, from his rise to ultimate downfall.

'The Saxon Stories' series, by Bernard Cornwell – series of novels which detail the life of Uhtred of Bebbanburg, a Saxon lord who grows up as a Viking during Alfred the Great's fight to unite England.

The Great Gatsby, by F Scott Fitzgerald – one of the most famous books in English literature, gives a vivid description of life in the New York City of the Roaring Twenties

'The Lord of the Rings' series, by JRR Tolkien – whilst a fantasy series, Tolkien - himself Professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Oxford - heavily based it on the mythology of Europe of 400-1100 AD.

The Pillars of the Earth, by Ken Follett – details the struggles of a community in 12th century England as they work together (and often against one another) to build the town's new cathedral.

Captain Corelli's Mandolin, by Louis de Bernières – classic novel which charts life on the Greek island of Cephalonia (Kefalonia) during the Axis occupation of World War II.

The Tattooist of Auschwitz, by Heather Morris – a novel based on the real life story of Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew who falls in love with another Jew imprisoned at the concentration camp.

Fatherland, by Robert Harris – set in a world with the Nazis and their Allies won WWII, this is a crime thriller set in Berlin at a time of conspiracy and intrigue as the Führer lies dying of old age in 1964

The Cicero Trilogy, by Robert Harris – the life of Cicero, from being elected leader of Ancient Rome, foiler of a great conspiracy and war hero, to his ultimate death at the hands of Julius Caesar

Historians' works worth reading:

Note: many of these are challenging to read. Those with an asterisk (*) will help with the units we study in GCSE History.

General History

A Little History of the World, by E.H. Gombrich – written by Professor Gombrich in the 1950s, it was intended as a summarised history of the world from the Big Bang until the 20th century. Very easy to read.

A History of the World, by Andrew Marr – BBC Journalist turned historian gives an account of the rise of Humanity from our first moves out of East Africa 70,000 years ago, up until today's modern world.

The Silk Roads: A New History of the World, by Peter Frankopan – A major reassessment of world history, this is an important account of the forces that have shaped the economy and the political renaissance in the re-emerging east.

Ancient History

SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome, by Dame Mary Beard – the Cambridge academic, historian and documentary filmmaker gives an easy-to-read account of Rome from tiny village to the first superpower.

The Histories, by Herodotus – considered to be the first history book ever written, Herodotus was an Ancient Greek who travelled around the known world and wrote of the cultures he encountered. Written in 440 BC.

The Twelve Caesars, by Suetonius – written during the reign of the Emperor Hadrian, his personal secretary and writes a brief and engaging account of the lives of the first 12 emperors of the Rome. Written in 121 AD.

Modern History

The Making of Modern Britain, by Andrew Marr – BBC journalist turned historian gives a fascinating account of Britain from the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 to the end of the Second World War in 1945.*

The History of Modern Britain, by Andrew Marr – BBC journalist turned historian gives a fascinating account of Britain from the end of the Second World War in 1945 until the Millennium in 2000.*

The History of the Third Reich, by Richard J Evans – one of the most famous books which details life under Nazi rule in 1930s Germany, Evans seeks to answer fundamental questions about the time.*

Medieval and British History

River Kings: A New History of the Vikings from Scandinavia to the Silk Road, by Cat Jarman – tells the story of Dr Jarman's own personal research into a carnelian bead, found in a Viking grave in England, and its distant origins.*

The Anglo-Saxons: A History of the Beginnings of England, by Marc Morris – 1,600 ago Britain left the Roman Empire and swiftly fell into ruin. Into this unstable world came foreign invaders from across the sea – the Anglo-Saxons.*

Bloody Foreigners, by Robert Winder – In this original, important and inspiring book, Robert Winder tells of the remarkable migrations that have founded and defined the nation we all call home today.*

England under the Norman and Angevin Kings, by Robert Bartlett – this book was what inspired and was later turned into Bartlett's documentaries *The Normans* (2010) and *The Plantagenets* (2014) for the BBC.*

The Norman Conquest, by Marc Morris – this key historical work by Morris uncovers 1066 like a detective story and consider the long-lasting impact that it has had on the World today.*

Empire: How Britain made the Modern World, by Niall Ferguson – the acclaimed *Empire* brilliantly unfolds the British imperial story in all the splendours and miseries it caused around the world.*

Macrohistory (where historians attempt to answer bigger questions about human history)

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, by Yuval Noah Harari – in this award-winning book, Harari attempts to answer one of the biggest questions of all time: why have Humans come to dominate the planet?