Leisure Reading Suggestions:

**Historical Fiction**

**Features of this genre:** Historical fiction novels are stories that are largely or completely set in the past. While the events in each book are fiction, there may be real historical settings, people, and/or situations involved (example: the voyage of Christopher Columbus is the overall story told, but from the viewpoint of a purely fictional character).

Generally, the stories are realistic and contain plausible situations and characters. However, some stories may include elements of fantasy or the supernatural while being grounded in a true historical setting (such as *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*). There is also a subgenre of Alternative History Fiction where actual historical events are changed and the story tells what might have happened instead.

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**Geraldine Brooks**  *The People of the Book*  PR9619.3 .B7153 P46 2008

**James Clavell**  *Shogun: a Novel of Japan*  PS3553 .L365 S5 1980

**Umberto Eco**  *The Name of the Rose*  PQ4865 .C6 N613 1983

**Ken Follett**  *The Pillars of the Earth*  PR6056 .O45 P55 1990b

**Seth Grahame-Smith**  *Unholy Night*  PS3607 .R348 U54 2012

**Alex Haley**  *Roots*  E185.97 .H24 A33

**Victor Hugo**  *Les Misérables*  PQ2286 .A3 B8 1926

**Elizabeth Kostova**  *The Historian*  PS3611 .O74927 H57 2005

**Colleen McCullough**  *The Thorn Birds*  PR9619.3 .M32 T55 1977

**James A. Michener**  *Texas*  PS3525 .I19 T48 1985

**Margaret Mitchell**  *Gone with the Wind*  PS3525 .I972 G6 1954

**Edward Rutherfurd**  *Sarum*  PR6068 .U88 S27 1987

**Marcus Zusak**  *The Book Thief*  JUV PZ7 .Z837 Boo 2007

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- Public libraries are a great source for popular fiction, or for more suggestions check out: whatshouldireadnext.com.
- The Walter Scott Prize recognizes the best in Historical Fiction. It’s named for Sir Walter Scott, the father of the genre.
- Uchronia.net lists over 3000 Alternative History books and Goodreads can suggest even more historical fiction.

Visit whatshouldireadnext.com for more excellent suggestions