



Academic Reading List: History

Year group	Book and author	Blurb
7	'Beyond the wall' by Tanya Landman	<p>"Slave girl Cassia escapes her master and sets out on a perilous journey north to Hadrian's Wall, and the freedom that lies beyond. I'm 100 pages in and captivated by Cassia's voice." — <i>The Bookseller</i></p> <p>'Beyond the Wall' by Tanya Landman is an intriguing story and contains adventurous plots throughout the story. The story is set in fourth century Roman Britain where liberty was not yet introduced to everyone and the setting made the book attractive to people who are interested in slavery.</p> <p>'Beyond the Wall' tells the story of Cassia, a slave woman in Roman-occupied Britain who decides, after a life of torment, to escape across Hadrian's Wall to live among the tribes of people free from Roman rule.</p>
8	'A Skinful of Shadows' by Frances Hardinge	<p>'A Skinful of Shadows' is a 2017 children's or young adults' paranormal historical fiction novel by Frances Hardinge. Her seventh novel, it revolves around Makepeace Felmotte, a girl with the inherited ability to see and absorb ghosts. During the First English Civil War, Makepeace lives with her mother in a Puritan village close to London. When her mother dies in a riot between the Parliamentarians and the Royalists, she is sent to live with her deceased father's relatives in Grizehayes, a fictional fortress in the north of England. Makepeace has the inherited trait that allows her to store the spirits of recently dead people or animals inside herself, like the rest of her father's family. The elders at Grizehayes store the spirits of their notable deceased family members inside living vessels. Discovering that her relatives keep her alive purely as a spare vessel for the spirits, she flees to Oxford and becomes entangled in the conflict of the war herself. "Hardinge is a talent who deserves to be read by children and adults alike." — <i>Guardian</i></p>
9	'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak	<p>Liesel, a girl growing up in Germany during WWII steals books, learns to read and find a real love for reading. Liesel is a young orphan girl who lives with her foster parents and although they are very poor, they choose to take a risk and shelter a Jewish boy. Liesel goes as far as rescuing books from Nazi bonfires and even in times of fear when she and her family are sheltering from Allied bombs she helps them find comfort in her books. This book shows how reading has a real impact even during times of crisis and the ending highlights the reality of what was happening during this time period.</p> <p>"I highly recommend this book to every single person who loves reading. Its beautifully written and the story will stay with you forever."</p>



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10	<i>'The Edelweiss Pirates'</i> by Dirk Reinhardt	<p>Based on an astonishing true story of bravery and rebellion, Reinhardt recounts the dangerous exploits of a group of teenage anti-Nazis in Hitler's Germany and how they fought to bring down a horrific regime.</p> <p>When sixteen-year-old Daniel befriends Josef Gerlach, he feels the old man is haunted by a secret from his past. Sure enough when Josef gives him his teenage diary to read, Daniel discovers a shocking story of rebellion and struggle. The diary tells how Josef left the Hitler Youth for a gang called The Edelweiss Pirates. Their uniform: long hair and cool clothes. Their motto: freedom!</p> <p>At first the Pirates are only interested in hanging out and having a good time, but as the situation in Nazi Germany gets worse, they start to plan dangerous missions against Hitler's regime. Soon they are fighting for their lives.</p>
11	<i>'A History of the World in 21 Women: A Personal Selection'</i> by Jenni Murray	<p>The history of the world is the history of great women. Marie Curie discovered radium and revolutionised medical science. Empress Cixi transformed China. Frida Kahlo turned an unflinching eye on life and death. Anna Politkovskaya dared to speak truth to power, no matter the cost. Their names should be shouted from the rooftops.</p> <p>And that is exactly what Jenni Murray is here to do.</p>