

Factual books and biographies:

- Sapiens: A Brief History of Human Kind by Yuval Noah Harari
- Wild Swans by Jung Chang - China
- Homage to Catalonia by George Orwell - Spanish Civil War
- Talking to my Daughter, a Brief History of Capitalism by Yanis Varoufakis
- Divided by Tim Marshall - geopolitics
- Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall - geopolitics
- Anything by Ben Macintyre - A Spy Among Friends, Double Cross, Operation Mincemeat, Agent Zigzag, and Rogue Heroes amongst others
- A People's Tragedy by Orlando Figes - Russian Revolution
- The Whisperers by Orlando Figes - Stalin's Russia
- Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank
- The Seven Pillars of Wisdom by T E Laurence
- The War of the World by Niall Ferguson - 20th Century wars
- Silk Roads: An New History of the World by Peter Frankopan - Asian history
- Any of Winston Churchill's Books, the best is My Early Life
- Any Autobiography by a US president or British Prime Minister

For younger ages:

- Horrible Histories – Any

Fiction with good historical content:

- All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr - World War Two
- The White Queen, The Red Queen and the Kingmaker's Daughter (series) by Philippa Gregory - Wars of the Roses
- Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck - America in the Great Depression
- Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck - America in the Great Depression
- 1984 by George Orwell - dystopian dictatorship
- Animal Farm by George Orwell - allegory of the Russian Revolution
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee - USA race relations
- Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimiamanda Ngozie Adiche - Nigeria/Biafran war
- All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque - World War One
- Our Man in Havana by Graham Greene - Cold War
- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak - Holocaust
- Innocent Traitor by Alison Weir - Lady Jane Grey
- The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini - Afghanistan
- The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald - America in the Roaring 20s
- The Help by Kathryn Stockett - US race relations
- Any spy thrillers by John Le Carre - Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy; The Spy Who Came in from the Cold; the Honourable Schoolboy

For younger ages:

- War Horse by Michael Morpurgo - World War One
- Grandpa's Great Escape by David Walliams - World War Two