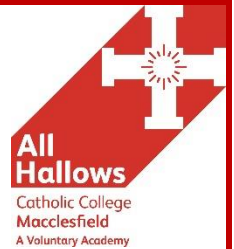


History

Recommended Reading List



Check out the History department's list of recommended reads for key stage 3 students.

Ancient China

[The Kite Rider - Geraldine McCaughrean](#)

Haoyou's father is dead - his spirit lives among the clouds above Ancient China. Feeling powerless when the man responsible for his father's death demands to marry his mother, Haoyou determines to follow in his father's footsteps and joins a travelling circus.

Ancient Egypt

[Secrets of a Sun King - Emma Carroll](#)

A discovery from ancient Egypt... A cursed package... The untold story of a young pharaoh... When Lillian Kaye finds a parcel on her grandad's doorstep, she is shocked to see who sent it: a famous Egyptologist, found dead that very morning, according to every newspaper in England!

Ancient Greece

[Greek Gods and Heroes Meet 40 mythical immortals - Sylvie Baussier](#)

40 gods, goddesses, heroes and heroines of Greek Mythology are waiting to be discovered, including Gaia, Zeus, Prometheus, Pandora, Athena, Antigone, Orpheus, Helen and Achilles. Each portrait includes the person's genealogy, allies and enemies, history and the myths associated with them.

[Tanglewood Tales - Nathaniel Hawthorne](#)

Greek myths retold with a modern, free, half-realistic and half-fanciful tone.

Ancient Roman

[I, Claudius - Robert Graves](#)

Despised for his weakness and regarded by his family as little more than a stammering fool, the nobleman Claudius quietly survives the intrigues, bloody purges and mounting cruelty of the imperial Roman dynasties.

In the Shadow of Heroes - Nicholas Bowling

Fourteen-year-old Cadmus has been scholar Tullus's slave since he was a baby - his master is the only family he knows. But when Tullus disappears and a taciturn slave called Tog - daughter of a British chieftain - arrives with a secret message, Cadmus's life is turned upside down.

The Eagle of the Ninth - Rosemary Sutcliff

The Ninth Legion marched into the mists of northern Britain - and they were never seen again. Four thousand men disappeared and their eagle standard was lost. It's a mystery that's never been solved, until now...

The Thieves of Ostia - Caroline Lawrence

Someone is killing Ostia's dogs and Flavia is determined to find out who and why in the first of The Roman Mysteries.

Viking Britain

Riddle of the Runes - Janina Ramirez

Young Alva lives with her mother, uncle, baby brother and pet wolf Fenrir in the Viking settlement Kilsgard. Her father is away 'a-Viking' and much missed. The peace of their community is disturbed by the arrival of an English monk. He says he's on the trail of treasure - certain to catch Viking attention - but has been attacked, a companion kidnapped.

Viking's Dawn - Henry Treece

Harold is an adolescent who sails with his father on a raid to Scotland. They come to grief on an island in the Hebrides.

Medieval

Max and the Midnights - Lincoln Peirce

Max wants to be a knight - too bad that dream is about as likely as finding a friendly dragon. But when Max's uncle Budrick is kidnapped by the cruel King Gastley, Max has to act . . . and fast!

The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England - Ian Mortimer

Imagine you could travel back to the fourteenth century. What would you see, and hear, and smell? Where would you stay? What are you going to eat? And how are you going to test to see if you are going down with the plague. History is not just something to be studied; it is also something to be lived, whether that's the life of a peasant or a lord.

Tudors/Stuarts

A Skinful of Shadows - Frances Hardinge

Makepeace, a courageous girl with a mysterious past, defends herself nightly from the ghosts which try to possess her. Then a dreadful event causes her to drop her guard for a moment. And now there's a ghost inside her. The spirit is wild, brutish and strong, but it may be her only defence in a time of dark suspicion and fear. As the English Civil War erupts, Makepeace must decide which is worse: possession - or death.

A Traveller in Time - Alison Uttley

An ancient farmhouse forms the link that allows Penelope to step back into Elizabethan times. Her friends there are scheming to free their beloved Mary, Queen of Scots, but – even with her twentieth-century knowledge – Penelope can only watch helplessly. Only in her own time is she fully aware of the tragedy which lies ahead, drawing closer whenever she steps into the past.

Eliza Rose – Lucy Worsley

Eliza Camperdowne comes from an old but impoverished family; she knows that the future of her family's fortunes depend on her making the right kind of marriage. Ideally, that means marrying a man with money and a title. But Eliza's life plan is changed when she is sent with her cousin to be a maid of Honour at the Court of King Henry VIII. Katherine may be a cousin but can Eliza trust her? As Katherine finds favour with the King himself, Eliza must learn to survive the intrigue and treachery of the court.

The Merrybegot - Julie Hearn

In a remote west-country village, all is not as it seems. Rumours of bad magic and witchcraft are spreading. The piskies are whispering in the orchard and an ill wind is blowing. The fingers of blame are all pointing to Nell, the cunning woman's granddaughter. With the Witchfinder General on his way, Nell is alone, trapped, and in fear for her life. Who can she trust? And who will save her?

Witchborn - Nicholas Bowling

It's 1577. When her mother is burned at the stake for witchcraft, Alyce flees to London. But it isn't just witchfinders she has to worry about. Powerful political forces are also on her trail, dragging her into the feud between Queen Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots. As Alyce struggles to understand her own powers, she is drawn into a web of secrets, lies and dark magic that will change the fate of England ...

18th Century

Coram Boy - Jamila Gavin

Coram Boy is the story of Toby, saved from an African ship as a child, and Aaron, the illegitimate son of the heir to a great estate. The two boys' lives are linked by the Coram Man, a shady figure who collects abandoned and unwanted children from across the country, supposedly to deliver them to a safe new life at the Coram Hospital in London. In reality, however, the unscrupulous man sells the unfortunate children into slavery, or 'disposes' of them if they are of no use to him. Soon, Toby and Aaron find themselves bound together in an epic journey, fraught with danger and excitement.

The Tzar's Curious Runaways - Robin Scott-Elliot

A magical, captivating tale of adventure set in imperial Russia. St Petersburg, Russia 1725. Katinka Dashkova is running for her life because everything she knows is changing. Katinka, a dazzling ballerina with a hunched back, and her friends Alexei the Giant and Nikolai the dwarf are different. That's why they are part of Peter the Great's Circus of Curiosities. But the Tzar is dead and they must flee the Winter Palace. Guided by a special map, they set out across Russia running for their lives.

19th Century/Early 20th Century

Lightening Mary - Anthea Simmons

An irresistible narrative from a unique historical character who broke the mould. This is the tale of Mary Anning, the 19th century fossil finder and scientist who defied convention to seek out incredible treasures on Dorset's Jurassic coast.

Secret Suffragette - Barbara Mitchelhill

Daisy's hero is Florence Nightingale, and she hopes to one day become a nurse just like her. But as a girl growing up in the East End of London in 1912, it seems like all her future holds is dropping out of school to work a tough job in a factory for very little money. Then Daisy meets the suffragettes, who are fighting for the rights of women and the poor.

The Ruby in the Smoke - Philip Pullman

After the sudden death of her father, Sally Lockhart is forced to go to live in London with an obnoxious cousin. There, she receives an anonymous letter containing a warning so dire that it makes a man die of fear at her feet.

First World War

The Rasputin Dagger - Theresa Breslin

Russia, 1916. Nina Ivanovna's world is in turmoil. Her only hope is to travel to St Petersburg, to escape the past and find a future. Stefan Kolodin is a medical student -young and idealistic, he wants change for Russia and its people. Amidst the chaos of a city in revolt, their lives collide. And a stormy relationship develops . . . full of passion and politics. But soon Nina is drawn in to the glamorous, lavish lives of the Russian royal family - where she begins to fall under the spell of their mysterious monk, Grigory Rasputin.

Private Peaceful - Michael Morpurgo

Set during World War I, Private Peaceful charts eight hours in the life of Tommo, a young soldier at the front, as he looks back over the formative events of his life: his father's early death, his relationship with his loving mother and brothers, Big Joe and Charlie, and their beloved schoolfriend Molly – all set among an evocative and beautifully realised rural landscape.

Inter-War Years

Hope against Hope - Sheena Wilkinson

The year is 1921. Ireland has been at war for two years. Communities are torn apart by bitter hatred - and now a hard border splits the island. In Belfast, Helen's Hope hostel is a progressive space where young women live and work together - a haven of tolerance and diversity in a fractured city. But some people hate Helen's Hope and its values.

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit - Judith Kerr

Suppose your country began to change. Suppose that without your noticing, it became dangerous for some people to live in Germany any longer. Suppose you found, to your complete surprise, that your own father was one of those people.

Second World War

Among the Red Stars – Gwen Katz

Inspired by the true story of an all-female bomber unit in Russia during World War II. World War II has erupted in Valka's homeland of Russia, and Valka is determined to help the effort. She's a pilot-and a good one-so she eagerly joins an all-female bomber regiment. Flying has always meant freedom and exhilaration for Valka, but dropping bombs on German targets is something else entirely.

Back Home - Michelle Magorian

It's 1945. World War II has just ended and twelve-year-old Rusty comes back home to Britain after being evacuated to the US. The greyness and bleakness of life in England is a shock, but even worse is adapting to the strict discipline of her family, including a brother she's never met, after the warmth and openness of her adopted American family.

Blitz Cat - Robert Westall

In an extraordinary mix of fact and fiction, Robert Westall describes the Second World War through the eyes of a cat. Blitzcat leaves her home to track down her person, a pilot with the RAF.

Carrie's War- Nina Bawden

During World War II, Carrie and her younger brother Nick are evacuated to Wales and billeted with the fierce old shopkeeper Mr Evans and his mousy sister, Louise.

Diary of Anne Frank – Anne Frank

In July 1942, 13 year old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up.

Once - Morris Gleitzman

Felix has lived in a Catholic orphanage for over three years but always hopes that his Jewish bookseller parents to come for him. Alarmed by the sight of what he assumes are official 'librarians' burning Jewish books in the orphanage, he sets off in search of his parents to warn them of the danger.

The Dollmaker of Krakow - R M Romero

A timeless fantasy set in the Second World War that weaves together magic, folklore and history. One night a little doll named Karolina comes to life in a toyshop in Krakow, Poland, in 1939 and changes the life of the gruff, broken-hearted Dollmaker. And when the darkness of the Nazi occupation sweeps over the city, Karolina and the Dollmaker must bravely use their magic to save their Jewish friends from a terrible danger, no matter what the risks.

The Last Paper Crane - Kerry Drewery

A Japanese teenager, Mizuki, is worried about her grandfather who is clearly desperately upset about something. He says that he has never got over something that happened in his past and gently Mizuki persuades him to tell her what it is. We are taken to 1945, Hiroshima, and Mizuki's grandfather as a teenage boy chatting at home with his friend Hiro. Moments later the horrific nuclear bomb is dropped on Hiroshima. What follows is a searing account of the blinding flash, the harrowing search for family and the devastation both human and physical. There is also the very moving and human story as the two teenage boys with great bravery search for and find Keiko, Hiro's five-year-old sister.

War Game - Michael Foreman

It was Christmas Day in the trenches in France during World War One and a remarkable football match took place. British and German soldiers put down their weapons and took up a game of football instead. For one day, the enemies are friends: they talk and play instead of fighting. But, the war isn't over and next day they pick up their weapons and the lads from Suffolk are ordered to go over the top...An astonishing story beautifully told in words and pictures...

White Eagles - Elizabeth Wein

Summer 1939. With Europe on the brink of war, eighteen-year-old Kristina Tomiak has been called up to join the White Eagles, Poland's valiant air force. When the Nazis reach the town where she is based, Kristina makes a daring escape, but she doesn't realise that she's carrying a stowaway in her plane. Will Kristina be able to navigate the most challenging flight of her life and reach safety amid the turmoil of war?

Post 1945

The Origins of the Cold War - Martin McCauley

Academic book which gives a good introduction to why the cold war started in a concise way.