

Historical Novel

Historic Novel, a novel that has as its setting a period of history and that attempts to convey the spirit, manners and social conditions of a past age with realistic detail and fidelity to historical facts. *Historical Fiction* is a literary genre where the story takes place in the past. *Historical Novel* captures the details of the time period as possible for authenticity, including social norms, manners, traditions, customs and other epic and memorable events and incidents. Many novels in this genre tell fictional stories that involve actual historical figures and historical events.

Historical Fiction as we know it in contemporary Western literature dates back to the early 19th century. Sir Walter Scott, Honore de Balzac, James Fenimore Cooper and Leo Tolstoy were among the first novelists to explore the historical setting as its own concept for a book. By the early 20th century, the genre was thriving into the United States with a focus on war stories.

Let us discuss some common elements of Historical Fiction.

Setting: The setting is the most important part of a Historical Fiction Novel. It should take place during an authentic period and be set in a real historical place. For example, New York City during the Great Depression or Paris France during World War 2.

Plot: The plot in a Historical Fiction is a combination of real events and fictional events in which the writer invents character, city and events, but still they must make sense to the time period. For example, a novel set in London, England in 1666 would benefit from incorporating the Great Fire of London, a major turning point in the city's history.

Characters: the characters can be real, fictional, or both but they should all look, speak and act in ways that accurately reflect the era. For example, if you are writing a book about Mary Tudor, it should not disregard or reinvent her family history as the daughter of Henry Eight and sister to Elizabeth One, who both played an important role in Mary' reign.

Dialogue: The dialogue must be authentic to the time period and should reflect the status of the characters who are speaking. For example, British soldiers in the Revolutionary War would not use Western slang of today.

Conflict: the problems the characters encounter should be conflicts people of that Era would encounter. For example, your book might describe the hesitation and fear German soldier feels as he is to the Eastern Front, where he knows he is likely to die.

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