

# Unit 6: Historical Fiction

Content Area: **English Language Arts**  
Course(s): **Language Arts 5**  
Time Period: **February**  
Length: **February to March 4 to 5 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Summary

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The study of historical fiction as a genre is important because it exposes our readers to complex, rich texts that explore both worlds of nonfiction and narrative. In this unit, students will work together in book clubs to read historical fiction novels. Students will set goals together and independently run their clubs, drawing upon their toolbox of strategies acquired all year long to explore character, grow theories, ask questions and fuel deep conversation. Students will not just discuss their books but use those conversations to also write about reading and gather evidence to support their opinions and ideas. Students will explore the nonfiction facts; events and concepts of their novels; identify and analyze changes in character based on events; identify the importance of setting; and focus on what elements mostly impact the storyline. To support their understanding of the time period, students will research the WWII era in order to develop a general understanding as well as angle their papers to focus on a more specific aspect of that era.

## Standards

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LA.RL.5.1	Quote accurately from a text, and make relevant connections when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
LA.RL.5.2	Determine the key details in a story, drama or poem to identify the theme and to summarize the text.
LA.RL.5.3	Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).
LA.RL.5.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.
LA.RL.5.5	Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.
LA.RL.5.6	Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.
LA.RL.5.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.
TECH.8.1.5.A.1	Select and use the appropriate digital tools and resources to accomplish a variety of tasks including solving problems.
TECH.8.1.5.A.CS2	Select and use applications effectively and productively.
TECH.8.1.5.E.1	Use digital tools to research and evaluate the accuracy of, relevance to, and appropriateness of using print and non-print electronic information sources to complete a variety of tasks.

## Student Learning Objectives

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Students will learn to:

- appreciate the importance of reading historical fiction and how it shapes our understanding of an historical time period.
- read historical fiction text and be able to empathize with a character in a different time and place.
- identify how an historical setting shapes the choices and outcomes of all characters.

## Essential Questions

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- How can historical fiction stories teach us about history?
- What makes characters in historical fiction believable?
- Why do characters do what they do and feel how they feel and how does the historical aspect of the novel play a role in this concept?
- How does setting play an important role in historical fiction?
- How can readers support their understanding of a time period when reading historical fiction?

## Enduring Understandings

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Students will understand that:

- authors of historical fiction study actual events from history to accurately portray the lives and times of the characters in their stories.
- characters of a historical fiction story are affected by the setting, through historical circumstances.
- good readers research the time period they are reading to get a better understanding of what the character is going through.

## Application

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The students will independently be able to:

- reading and understanding the structure of Historical Fiction.

## Skills

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The students will be skilled at:

- taking notes, asking questions, and being active listeners in their book clubs.