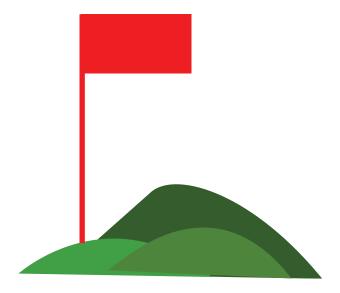


Historical fiction is a type of fiction. All historical fiction stories take place in the past, and they revolve around a true event that happened in history. However, historical fiction stories typically do not feature real characters. Because it is so difficult to recreate events of the past exactly how they happened, historical fiction is a good alternative. Authors can tell a story about an important, true event while using fake characters and fake storylines. The film *Titanic* is an excellent example of historical fiction. Can you think of any others?





**Stephen Crane:** Crane was an American writer in the 1800s. His most famous book *The Red Badge of Courage* was about a young man's experiences in the Civil War.

"Within him, as he hurled himself forward, was born a love, a despairing fondness for this flag which was near him. It was a creation of beauty and invulnerability. It was a goddess, radiant, that bended its form with an imperious gesture to him. It was a woman, red and white, hating and loving, that called him with the voice of his hopes. Because no harm could come to it he endowed it with power. He kept near, as if it could be a saver of lives, and an imploring cry went from his mind."

-The Red Badge of Courage (1895)



Name some of the words and elements of this quote

that tell you it is historical fiction.

## **HISTORICAL FICTION**



**James Michener:** Michener often wrote about the Pacific Islands and what was going on there during the wars in the early 20th century. *Tales of the South Pacific* is about the soldiers stationed in the islands out there during WWII.

"I wish I could tell you about the South Pacific. The way it actually was. The endless ocean. The infinite specks of coral we called islands. Coconut palms nodding gracefully toward the ocean. Reefs upon which waves broke into spray, and inner lagoons, lovely beyond description. I wish I could tell you about the sweating jungle, the full moon rising behind the volcanoes, and the waiting. The waiting. The timeless, repetitive waiting."

-Tales of the South Pacific (1946)



Even though this quote is fictional, how does it help us better understand that part of history?	
	What does this quote teach us about the time period it takes place in?

**Nathaniel Hawthorne:** Hawthorne was a famous early American writer. His books often dealt with the problems in the strict Puritan culture of early New England.

"A throng of bearded men, in sad-colored garments, and gray, steeple-crowned hats, intermixed with women, some wearing hoods and others bareheaded, was assembled in front of a wooden edifice, the door of which was heavily timbered with oak, and studded with iron spikes.

The founders of a new colony, whatever Utopia of human virtue and happiness they might originally project, have invariably recognized it among their earliest practical necessities to allot a portion of the virgin soil as a cemetery, and another portion as the site of a prison."

- The Scarlet Letter (1850)



## **HISTORICAL FICTION**



Now it's time for you to practice writing some historical fiction. Choose an important event or time period from the suggested list below (or come up with one on your own). Research online to learn about the basic locations, dates, clothing and other reallife elements to describe that event. Then create a character who could have been alive back then, and tell his or her story about being alive during that event.

**Suggestions:** Ancient Egypt, Christopher Columbus sailing to the New World, The American Revolution, The Great Depression, Lewis and Clarke's expedition, The Gold Rush...



