

6th & 7th GRADE HISTORY PARENT BOOK LIST

After years of researching and teaching junior high history, I have come across some great adult literature that correlates to the history curriculum I will be teaching this year to your children. I have compiled a list below of books that will give parents who enjoy reading, a peek from an adult perspective, at the various historic and cultural places your children will be learning about. Some of these books are tragic in the stories they tell, while others are full of intrigue and real page-turners. I've tried to provide a short summary to assist you with your choices. In general the non-fiction titles deal with the tough stuff, and the historical fictions offer some fun. I do happen to have copies of most of these available for check out. These books are adult literature, in other words, they contain adult themes that are **totally inappropriate for adolescent children** to be reading. I have very detailed, grade-appropriate reading lists for the students☺

Ancient Hebrews (6th grade mid-October)

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant. Historical Fiction: set in biblical times, this story explores some of the female characters in the Bible from Dinah's point of view. It is a must read for any mom, daughter, or friend of women...very easily read.

Ancient Egypt (6th grade November-December)

River God: A Novel of Ancient Egypt by Wilbur Smith. Historical Fiction: this is an interesting one. Very epic with great characters, from all aspects of Egyptian society, I'm in the middle of it now☺ It can be rather graphic at times.

Ancient India (6th grade January)

The Siege of Krishnapur by J.G. Farrell. Historical Fiction: Winner of the Booker Prize, this is an excellent book that tells of the beginnings of the end of the British Raj in India. It is the story of bringing civilization to an uncivilized place, and as the story unfolds, one wonders who is civilized. Every aspect of this book is exceptional - the characters and characterizations, the plot, the setting, and both the historical and literary value.

Ancient China (6th grade February-March)

Cambodian Odyssey by Haing Ngor. Non-fiction: Although this has nothing to do with the time period we study, I had to include this story. Ngor was the actor that won an Academy Award for his performance in "*The Killing Fields*". This, however, is his real life story of life under the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. It is beautifully told, but tragic in the end. Sometimes we need to be reminded of the horrors humans are capable of in order to keep our social justice conscience alive. This is the singular most moving book I have ever read. Unfortunately it is out of print, but I happen to have a copy.

A Floating Life: The Adventures of Li Po by Simon Elegant. Historical Fiction: based on the life of Ancient China's greatest poet, this book really gives you some insight into what imperial China was really like. It can be quite descriptive at times, but it really is necessary to create the setting. Slow start, but picks up wonderfully, very poetic.

Ancient Greece (6th grade April)

Gates of Fire by Steven Pressfield. Historical fiction: the Battle of Thermopylae is the setting of this great novel... Sparta vs. Persia. It has all the beauty and bravo of an epic war story.

The Roman Empire (6th grade May)

The Grass Crown by Colleen McCullough. Historical fiction: takes place in Rome during the period just before Julius Caesar's dictatorship. I read it a long time ago, but remember really enjoying it.

I, Claudius by Robert Graves. Historical fiction: takes place during the rule of the first four emperors of Rome. Shockingly truthful about how absolutely **crazy** Nero and Caligula were. Don't forget the Romans really were a hedonistic group, so be warned!