Shanghai Girls
By Lisa See
When WWII reaches Shanghai, two sisters leave a life of privilege to enter arranged marriages in the US.

The Pillars of Earth
By Ken Follett
Intrigue surrounds the construction of a cathedral in 12th century England.

The Hunchback of Notre-Dame
Victor Hugo
A gothic novel that inspired a flood of tourists to Paris' most famous cathedral.

Outlander
By Diana Gabaldon
Read this novel series that highlights Scottish clan life in the 18th century.

Twelve Rooms of the Nile
By Enid Shomer
A fictional friendship between Florence Nightingale and Gustave Flaubert, set in Egypt in 1850.

Romola
By George Eliot
Eliot's study of life in Florence during the 15th century Italian Renaissance.

Brooklyn
By Colm Toibin
Set in Brooklyn and Ireland in the early 1950s, when one young woman crosses the ocean to make a new life for herself.

London
By Edward Rutherfurd
The birth of the River Thames to present time.

The Underground Railroad
By Colson Whitehead
A kinetic adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage

My Antonia
By Willa Cather
See life from the perspective of an immigrant girl on the Nebraska plains in this novel.

One Thousand White Women
By Jim Fergus
The story of May Dodd and other pioneer women who intermarried among the Cheyenne Indians.

The Alienist
By Caleb Carr
This novel studies murder in 1896 New York City.

The Good Earth
By Pearl S. Buck
A book about the family life of a Chinese village before the 1949 Revolution.

The Thorn Birds
By Colleen McCullough
Follows the Cleary family in the Australian outback from 1915 to 1969.

The Grapes of Wrath
By John Steinbeck
The story of sharecroppers in the Great Depression.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
By Mary Ann Shaffer
This novel is a celebration of the written word in all its guises, and of finding connection in the most surprising ways.

I Should Be Extremely Happy in Your Company
By Brian Hall
Lewis and Clark expedition

The Sisters Brothers
By Patrick DeWitt
Multiple award winner about two 19th century hired guns traveling from Oregon to California.

**Historical Fiction**

An essential element of historical fiction is that it is set in the past and pays attention to the manners, social conditions and other details of the period depicted. Authors also frequently choose to explore notable historical figures in these settings, allowing readers to better understand how these individuals might have responded to their environments.

Books...And So Much More!
Shaler North Hills Library
www.shalerlibrary.org
412-486-0211
The Nightingale
By Kristin Hannah
Two sisters face horrific challenges in France during WWII.

The Book Thief
By Marcus Zusak
An unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. Winner of the 2007 BookBrowse Ruby Award.

All the Light We Cannot See
By Anthony Doerr
This heart wrenching tale of WWII won the Pulitzer in 2015.

The Other Boleyn Girl
By Philippa Gregory
An entertaining if inaccurate portrayal of Anne Boleyn’s sister, Mary.

Wolf Hall
By Hilary Mantel
Booker Prize winner documenting Thomas Cromwell’s rise to power in the court of King Henry VIII.

Bring Up the Bodies
By Hilary Mantel
Sequel to Wolf Hall, chronicling Cromwell’s machinations to rid Henry VIII of Anne Boleyn.

The Help
By Kathryn Stockett
A timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don’t.

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet
By David Mitchell
Love story between a clerk for the Dutch East India Company and a disfigured Japanese midwife.

Titans
By Leila Meacham
Texas in the early 1900s, a heartfelt, big-canvas story full of surprising twists and deep emotional resonance.

Death Comes for the Archbishop
By Willa Cather
Two priests travel 1851 New Mexico in the wake of the Mexican-American War.

The Far Pavilions
By M.M. Kaye
This romantic epic set in 19th century India under British rule has been compared to Gone With the Wind.

Oscar and Lucinda
By Peter Carey
Winner of the 1988 Booker Prize, about the misadventures of two gambling misfits in 19th century Australia.

March
By Geraldine Brooks
Retells Little Women from the perspective of the absent Mr. March.

The March
By E.L. Doctorow
Sherman’s March to the Sea near the end of the American Civil War, told through a large and diverse cast of characters.

The Long Song
By Andrea Levy
A bawdy, farcical, yet unflinching portrait of a 19th century Jamaican slave girl on the brink of emancipation.

The Painted Girls
By Cathy Marie Buchanan
The model for Edgar Degas’ Little Dancer Aged Fourteen is brought vividly to life.

The Luminaries
By Eleanor Catton
Part love story, part mystery, set against the backdrop of New Zealand’s 19th century gold rush.

Caravans
By James A. Michener
Story of an American diplomat in Afghanistan following WWII.

August 1914
By Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
An epic chronicle of events leading up to the Russian Revolution.

Three Day Road
By Joseph Boyden
Two young Cree men from Northern Ontario become snipers for the Canadian army in WWII.

Midnight’s Children
By Salman Rushdie
A Story of children born at or near the moment of India’s independence from Britain.

The Poisonwood Bible
By Barbara Kingsolver
The family of a Baptist missionary adjusts to life in the Congolese jungle in the early 1960s.

Memoirs of a Geisha
By Arthur Golden
The fictional memoir of a geisha, from age nine to adulthood, in pre– and post WWII Japan.

Titans
By Leila Meacham
Texas in the early 1900s, a heartfelt, big-canvas story full of surprising twists and deep emotional resonance.

The Night Watch
By Sarah Waters
An evocative story of London during WWII, told in reverse chronological order.

The Historian
By Elizabeth Kostova
An interweaving of the stories of Vlad the Impaler, Count Dracula and a 1930s search for Vlad’s tomb.

Arthur & George
By Julian Barnes
The story of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s efforts to exonerate George Edalji, a solicitor falsely accused of a crime.