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<center>Analysis of historical fiction</center>

General analysis

History and social impact

The definition of Historical Fiction is "Historical fiction is defined as movies and novels in which a story is made up but is set in the past and sometimes borrows true characteristics of the time period in which it is set." provided by "Historical Fiction." *Historical-Fiction Dictionary Definition | Historical-Fiction Defined*, www.yourdictionary.com/historical-fiction. This is showing that a book that takes place in the past could have borrowed true people and events from any time period and/or any place. Most historical fiction has a specific time period it is based on for example a few popular books that are historical fiction based are from the time period of World War II. These books include but are not limited to *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, and *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne. The books give detailed accounts about the life of fictional characters who were based on real people and took place during a period when major world events were happening every day. The genre is important to our society because it gives us a
window into the past and gives us the opportunity to reflect and learn from our past choices to create a better world for us all.

Discourse community

History itself is a discourse community and there are sub communities within this larger entity. People who enjoy studying, learning, and understanding about the language, culture, and traditions of different time periods and places would fall under this community. They would understand the culture and society of the setting in which they are reading about. An example of this would be shown in the difference between a peice set in England in the 1800's compared to a piece set in America in the 1950's, they are two very different places in two very different times. The use of language variation, the style of clothing and the social norms are vastly different from work to work. Individuals who are versed in different cultures and time periods would immediately pick up and appreciate subtle details that the everyday person might not give a second look to. Understanding events is important but turley understanding the different aspects of a culture is a whole different experience.

Rules and message

According to M.K Tod article "*7 Elements of Historical Fiction*" there are seven distic things that need to be developed within the genre of historical fiction. These examples are characters, plot, dialogue, setting, theme, conflict, world building, and research material notes. This may seem like many things to keep in mind but it's very similar to when thinking about who, what, where, when, why, how. For example the who would be the characters, the what would be the

plot, the where would be setting, the when would be the time period, the why would be the plot, and the how would be the conflict. Historical fiction is different from regular fiction as characters have pre existing rules and laws depending on the setting and time in which the story is taking place. Research is a very important tool historical fiction writers use to help give their reader an authentic experience of the place and time they choses to write about.

The main message of this genre is giving readers a door through time where they can experience what it was like to be a part of another time as well as learning about history, culter, and society. An example I mentioned earlier was a novel named *"Night"* by Elie Wiesel the story takes place during world war II in Germany and it's about a Jewish boy who is growing up during Nazi Geremany. The book tells the story of a child growing up during war time and how he survived the concentration camps that Hilter created. Each story is unique due to the fact that each has their own setting, time period, theme, culture environment, and even society . The historical fiction genre is knowingly vast because history is ever growing and constantly moving forward.

Focused analysis

One book that gives an example of what historical fiction is all about is *"The Book Thief"* by Markus Zusak. Which tells the story of a girl growing up in Nazi Gmarmany who loves reading. She sees death and hardship from the being of the book, she adapts to her new way of life to survive the events that were happening during the war. The message of the book was to make the most with what you have and strive to become better. In a time where you didn't know if you

would live to see tomorrow this young main character made her own path in life no matter what everyone else was telling her to do. The people in her life who supported her in her shaped the way she made her decisions and overall saved her life.The intended audience is young adults but even so, adults of any age can enjoy the book just the same. The universal themes of growing up and standing together are relatable for most. From the protagonist's point of view we see some female empowerment even though women are very limited in what they could do in the 1930's and 1940's. This book shows young women that they could do things they set their mind to even if they face adversities in life.

Some constraints that the author may have faced is making sure that his research of vocabulary, socitry, and cultural views. History research is one of the most important aspects of the whole story for the authenticity of the character, setting and plot. Imagine a story was set in 1950's in New York and the main character says " My dude have you heard this musician he's fire no cap I stan him" the vocabulary doesn't work with the setting and time something more appropriate would sound more like " hey have you heard this cat's new record it's the bee's knees I bet it will be radioactive" the language from the past can differ when compared to the terms and phrase we use today. There are some instances where the slang way of talking gets passed down like for example " Knuckle sandwich" ,"Shades", and "Big deal" these terms are still somewhat used in modern day and age.

Another constant is the description of clothing, fashion has also changed so much throughout the ages. Today we can basically wear whatever we want but back during World War II Men would

usually wear button down shirts, suspenders, and slacks where women would wear long casual

dresses and skirts. They were limited in what they could wear because there weren't as many

choices as there is now as well as the fact this way of dressing was the social norm. Some

clothing designers take inspiration from different historical times and incorporate it into modern

day fashion.

 The final constraint would be how underdeveloped a place would be compared to today. There

are so many more morden cities as well as technological advancements now then there were in

the past. Things like restaurants, clubs, public parks, computers, GPS, the internet, streets,

sidewalks, cell phones, cars, and many other modern luxuries that we take advantage of today

that they didn't have back then. Life during this time was much simpler compared to the

complex way we have of doing things.

Historical fiction is important because it gives readers a sense and experiences of what it was like

to live in a specific place and time while having all the elements of fiction. They get to see what

it was like for the people of the past while learning about history, culture, and sometimes a

different place entirely. It's a cross between fiction and non-fiction due to the fact the places and

time periods were/are real but the plot and the characters were created in this real time and place.

It's a genre that gives us a taste of what the past was like through the eyes of protagonists,

antagonists, anti-heros, and everyone in between. Historical fiction also shows a record of how a

society has grown, changed, and advanced since the novel or other medium of this gernas given

setting and time. If you think about how much has really changed in the past 25 years it's

amazing but, now think about 50, 75, even 100 years ago. Humans have only landed on the

moon in 1969 that was 51 years ago, the spread of Aids in the 80's, the creation of cell phones

and the intern in the 90's, 9/11 in 2001, the first Iphone in 2009, the burning of the amazon in

2019, and now a global pandemic in 2020. The future is uncertain but there are so many events

that happened in the past to make the reality we know today in the words of Frederick Douglass,

"If There Is No Struggle, There Is No Progress".

The most important concept is that so much work goes into the writing and creation of this genre.

So many different elements have to come together to create historical fiction. The place and the

time in which the story takes place is one of the most important. Research is very important

because even though the characters are fictional the setting and vocabulary is not. If you never

read a historical fiction book you may be surprised at how many ways there are to describe the

past whether it be the 1920's, 1960's, or the 1980's everything can change in the blink of an eye.

The genre has impacted the way we look at history by bringing stories based on real times and

places and adding some fictional details. The work still shows a fountain of knowledge of the

past that makes learning about history interesting. The past will always find its way back to the

present and even the future.

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