

Facts Wrapped Up in Fiction

Historical fiction is one of the easiest ways to painlessly introduce children to history. The story itself is fictional (although sometimes based on a true story), but it is set in a particular era of history and includes accurate information about the people, culture, politics, and events that took place at that time. Many carschooling families listen to historical fiction while tooling down the highway. Try some of these stories out on your carschoolers.

Ready Resources

These historical fiction titles on CD and/or audio download are among the favorites of carschooling families. I have provided some age-grade range guidelines, but flexibility is the key as children's listening and comprehension skills vary tremendously. To enhance learning, visit Carol Hurst's Children's Literature Site at www.carolhurst.com that provides discussion questions and activity suggestions for many of these book titles. All of these books are also available in hard or soft cover from bookstores or your local library (ask your librarian about interlibrary loans, if your branch doesn't carry a particular title). For convenience, I have grouped the titles under the historical era they address.

MIDDLE AGES

Catherine, Called Birdie, by Karen Cushman. Gain insight into life in the Middle Ages through the diary of a young woman. Ages 11 and up. (Unabridged audio download available from www.audible.com or the library.)

1600S: PURITANS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Witch of Blackbird Pond, by Elizabeth George Speare. A young girl is accused of witchcraft when she tries to help a friend reputed to be a witch. An accurate portrayal of life