

# Historical Fiction

Key Features	Example
<b>Setting</b>	<b>Story set in the past.</b> Include historical detail to create the setting eg. <i>In the early hours of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, 1666 a fire started in the bakers' in Pudding Lane....</i>
<b>Archaic Language</b>	Use the right kind of archaic language when characters speak to each other eg. <i>Let me carry thy basket, Mistress Wallace.</i>
<b>Archaic sentence structure</b>	More formal sentence structure eg. <i>That which you seek, you will find in the forest.</i>
<b>Characters</b>	Description of the characters e.g. what they are wearing or how they are behaving adds to the 'historical feel' of the text eg. <i>She was wearing a long woollen dress with a heavy linen collar. A starched white cap covered her fair hair which was neatly tied back.</i>
<b>Transport</b>	How did people move around? Remember in the past people did not travel as far as we do today. Many people did not leave their village EVER! Poor people walked or went by horse or oxen cart. Rich people rode or had horse and carriages.
<b>Food</b>	Food was scarce, especially if you were poor. It would never be wasted; any leftovers would be fed to the pigs or servants... probably in that order! Poor people drank ale, the water was too rank while the rich drank wine. The rich ate more meat e.g. mutton, lamb, swan, hare, deer, boar and pork; the poor ate little meat – only what could be caught or poached. The poor ate more vegetables. The rich had better 'white' bread. All ate cheese, milk, butter and eggs as available.
<b>Sanitation</b>	There wasn't any! Chamber pots were emptied into the streets. Poor people never bathed, the rich might have a bath once or twice a year whether they needed it or not!! They carried 'nosegays' (little posies of flowers) to hide the smell! The poor only had one set of clothes, shoes were optional. Most lost their teeth; the rich could afford to have wooden ones or someone else's. Rich women used white lead to make their faces white.
<b>Houses</b>	For the poor were very basic, dirt floor, one room upstairs, the animals shared the space downstairs. They kept the inhabitants warm and they probably smelt better. They might have a table and other very simple wooden furniture. Rich people would have fine cloths and carved wooden furniture.