

Questions to Consider While Reading Historical Fiction

SETTING (TIME AND PLACE)

- Do you think that the author accurately described a particular historical period in the novel? Why or why not?
- List some details that describe the historical time period.
- List some details that describe the illnesses present.

CHARACTERS

- Are there real historical figures whose names you recognize? List them.
- Do you think the historical figures belong in the period described?
- Explain the characters' involvement in the historical setting and events.
- How are the historical characters important to the action of the novel?

PLOT (STORY LINE)

- Does the plot focus on a specific historical incident? Explain.
- Do the historical characters in the novel participate in a well-known historical incident? Explain.
- Do you think the conflict of the story is real or fictional?
- Do the characters dramatize an eventful moment in history?

SUMMARY

- Why do you think the author chose to write about this particular historical episode?
- Why is this book considered a historical novel?
- Do you think this novel a good or bad historical novel, based on the previous definition of historical fiction?
- What illness in history does the novel reveal?
- How can this illness be related to contemporary life?
- Any other thoughts you have?