

# BOOK STUFF

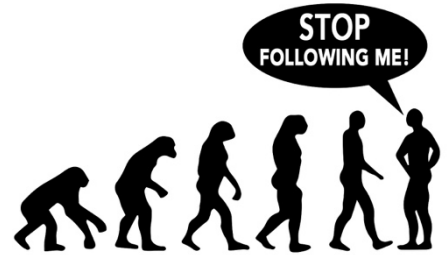
## #49 'History is not was, it is.'

William Faulkner

### Yesterday is History by Emily Dickinson

Yesterday is History,  
'Tis so far away—  
Yesterday is Poetry—  
'Tis Philosophy—

Yesterday is mystery—  
Where it is Today  
While we shrewdly speculate  
Flutter both away



### Memorable dates in History in the month of September

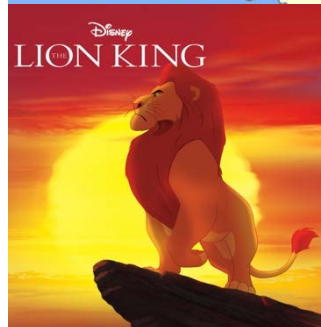
September 2nd 1666 – The Great Fire of London

September 6<sup>th</sup> 1901- President William McKinley is shot

September 8<sup>th</sup> 1522 – Spanish Navigator Juan de Elcano returns to Spain, completing the first circumnavigation of the globe.

### Interesting facts about different time periods

- The Romans had baths together.
- The Egyptians loved board games.
- In Tudor times, Henry VIII banned ordinary people from playing sport. Christmas was the only time you were allowed to play.
- The Maya believed being cross-eyed was very attractive.
- The Mali Empire was founded in the 1200 by Sundiata Keita – sometimes called the 'Lion King.'



**History's big unanswered questions...have a think about this one?**

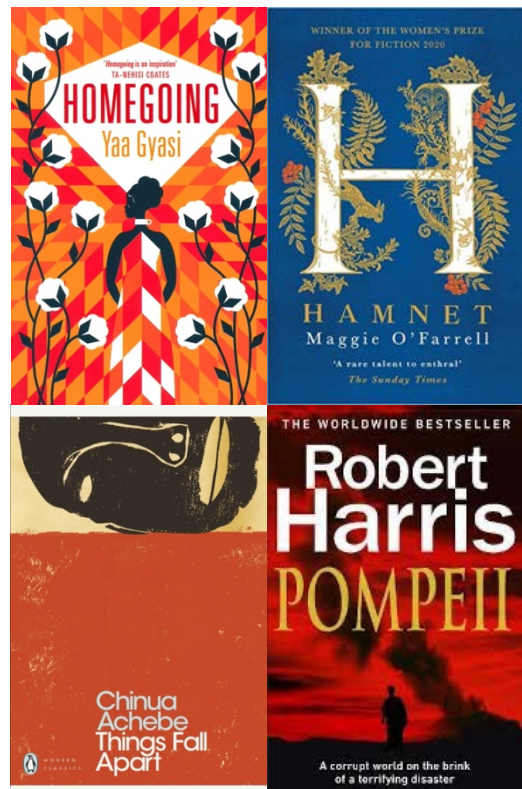
*The Allegory of the Cave* is a thought experiment dating back to somewhere between 380 BCE and 360 BCE, and it's a powerful



thing to consider when questioning the realness of the world around us. In short, there is a cave beneath the earth with a hole in the top, but deep inside the cave, far past the point where you can see the entrance, are several prisoners chained to the ground. These prisoners have always been chained to the ground of the cave, like something out of some fiction novel, and they've never known the world outside of the cave. Now here's where things get really interesting — suppose there is a ledge behind the prisoners, and there is a fire burning atop the ledge, from which you can make hand puppets and display them on a flat, barren wall in front of the prisoners for them to see. Is it possible that these prisoners, never having seen the actual, outside world, would assume that the shadow puppets were reality and not merely shadows being cast before them? The implication of this is a question about the limits of our knowledge in the real world, outside of the cave — how do we know that we know the whole story? How do we know that what we're seeing and observing is really real, and not just some imaginary shadow of some ultimate reality?

### Historical fiction book suggestions

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafrón  
The Offing by Benjamin Myers  
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell  
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi  
Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatle  
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe  
My Name is Leon by Kit de Waal  
The Fortune Men by Nadija Mohamed  
Pompeii by Robert Harris  
The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead  
Small Island by Andrea Levy



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