Middle School Lesson 1: Introduction to Historical Fiction

Intro
- Make a list or anchor chart of what your students already know about historical fiction
  - Summary of historical fiction
  - Elements of historical fiction
  - Have you read any historical fiction books?
- Add and discuss any other features/elements that are integral to historical fiction
- Discuss why it’s important to read different genres

Expand
- Make a table of different possibilities you could have in a historical fiction story.
- Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Historical Facts</th>
<th>Characters</th>
<th>Character Traits</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Conflict</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>WWI</em></td>
<td><em>War between countries</em></td>
<td><em>Presidents</em></td>
<td><em>Brave</em></td>
<td><em>War zone</em></td>
<td><em>Segregation in public places</em></td>
<td><em>Supreme Court Ruling</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>American Revolution</em></td>
<td><em>War between regions</em></td>
<td><em>Soldiers</em></td>
<td><em>Strong</em></td>
<td><em>Plantation</em></td>
<td><em>Losing parents/loved ones</em></td>
<td><em>One side wins war</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>1800’s</em></td>
<td><em>Segregation</em></td>
<td><em>Slaves</em></td>
<td><em>Selfish</em></td>
<td><em>Home</em></td>
<td><em>Slavery</em></td>
<td><em>Personal decisions</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Civil War</em></td>
<td><em>Hospital workers</em></td>
<td><em>Helpful</em></td>
<td><em>Curious</em></td>
<td><em>School</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>1940’s and 50’s</em></td>
<td><em>Children</em></td>
<td><em>Thoughtful</em></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respond – Whole Class
- Write 2 historical fiction short stories (one page) sentence by sentence as a class.
- On the first one, choose one random feature from each category (time period, characters, setting, historical facts, conflict, resolution.) This story will probably be silly and not completely make sense!
- On the second one, choose features from each category that DO make sense and write a short, simple story as a class.

Wrap up
- Students can complete an exit ticket. One example: What are 2 features or elements of historical fiction?