

Pre-Revolution

Desperate Crossing: The Untold Story of the Mayflower (2006, documentary) Using journals, historical data, and professional historians, the History Channel recreated what life would be like for the Pilgrims crossing the Atlantic. The program integrates education and entertainment, using interviews with historians, and actors to portray characters.

Pocahontas (1995, G) Disney's Pocahontas tells the tale of an American Indian woman who encounters some of the first Englishmen to come to the "new world"

Squanto: A Warrior's Tale (1994, PG) Native American Squanto lives as a free man in the New World in the 1700s until he's captured by visiting sailors who take him back to England. Once he returns to America, he must help chart a new path for his people.

American Revolution

Johnny Tremain Inspired by the award-winning novel, this film covers the Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere's Ride, and the battles at Lexington and Concord.

HBO's John Adams (TV miniseries) Based on the book by David McCullough, this seven-part mini-series focuses on the life of John Adams, beginning when he was in his mid-thirties to well after his retirement. Watch at least two episodes.

The Crossing This film is a dramatization of Washington's victory at Trenton the day after Christmas, 1776. Had Washington not attempted the crossing of the ice-choked Delaware River and had the ill-fed, freezing, poorly trained, and poorly armed Continentals failed to prevail over the feared Hessian mercenaries, the American Revolution would probably have collapsed.

Early America

Into the Heart of the Sea (2015, PG-13) In 1820, crewmen aboard the New England vessel Essex face a harrowing battle for survival when a whale of mammoth size and strength attacks with force, crippling their ship and leaving them adrift in the ocean. Their incredible tale ultimately inspired author Herman Melville to write "Moby-Dick."

The Civil War

A Woman Called Moses (1978, TV miniseries) Escaped slave Harriet Tubman leads an underground railroad taking others north to freedom. With a mini-series, feel free to choose any two episodes and watch those.

Gettysburg (1993, PG) This is a film, pure and simple, about the Battle of Gettysburg in the summer of 1863, about the strategies, calculations, mistakes and heroism that turned the tide of the Civil War decisively against the South.

Gods and Generals (2003, PG-13) This film serves as a prequel to the film Gettysburg and focuses on early military encounters between the North and the South. The film follows two officers who were instrumental in the battles of Manassas I and Fredericksburg.

Gone with the Wind (1939, G) This movie examines life in the south, specifically Georgia, in the years just prior to the war, followed by the effects of the war on one family's plantation, and then life there during the Reconstruction. Hattie McDaniel was the first African American to receive an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Mammy.

Ken Burns: The Civil War (1990, documentary) This nine-part series is the work that made documentarian Ken Burns a household name. Burns uses contemporary cinematography in addition to thousands of archival photographs, paintings and newspaper images set to music to teach people about the Civil War. With a mini-series, feel free to choose any two episodes and watch those.

Lincoln (2012, PG-13) This film portrays the month before the end of the Civil War, and how Lincoln fought and used his powers as president to ensure that slavery was abolished. The movie shows behind the scenes of war, focusing on the political battles rather than the ones fought with weapons.

North and South (1985, mini-series) This series is based on John Jakes' novel about the Civil War and its effect on two families.

Shenandoah (1965, NR) American Civil War film about a wealthy widower who has remained steadfast in his opposition to the war on moral grounds. However, he is forced to become involved in the conflict when his son-in-law is called upon to serve in the Confederate forces, his youngest son is captured by the Union army, and another son and his pregnant daughter-in-law are killed by looters.

The Red Badge of Courage (1951, NR) The film is an adaptation of Stephen Crane's novel of the same name and explores the themes of maturity, duty, and cowardice during wartime.

Turn-of-the-century America

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (1945, PG) Set in the tenements of New York City, this adaptation of the classic novel tells the story of young Francie Nolan, who yearns for life beyond her Brooklyn apartment building. Despite poverty and other challenges, Francie struggles to keep her hopes up and persevere despite all the odds against her.

Iron Jawed Angels (2004, PG-13) Defiant young activists take the women's suffrage movement by storm, putting their lives at risk to help American women win the right to vote

Newsies (1992, PG) In 1899, homeless New York City newsboy Jack "Cowboy" Kelly unionizes New York newsboys and leads a workers' strike against publisher Joseph Pulitzer

The Greatest Game Ever Played (2005, PG) Blue-collar Francis Ouimet fights class prejudice while mastering golf, a game guarded by the upper crust. A few admirers help Francis enter the 1913 U.S. Open. The underdog competes against British star Harry Vardon and finds common ground with his boyhood idol. The film is based on a true story.

The American West

American Legends (2002, G) Disney's American Legends is a compilation of previously released animated musical shorts from Walt Disney Animation Studios based on American tall tales.

Brigham Young (1940, NR) After the murder of their founder, Joseph Smith, members of the Mormon church flee to the West in search of a place to practice their religion in peace. Leading the way is Brigham Young, who brings the Mormons to the Great Salt Lake in Utah.

Fort Apache (1948) An officer from the East takes command of a small fort deep in Indian territory. He hopes that a battle with the Apaches will result in a promotion. The officer gets his battle but it's not what he thought it would be.

How the West Was Won (1962, G) This film covers the 1840s-1880s and follows the fictional Prescott family on their journey west. It covers — among other things — the Gold Rush, the Civil War, and the Transcontinental Railroad

High Noon (1952, PG) Former marshal Will Kane is preparing to leave the small town of Hadleyville, New Mexico, with his new bride, Amy, when he learns that local criminal Frank Miller has been set free and is coming to seek revenge on the marshal who turned him in. When he starts recruiting deputies to fight Miller, Kane is discouraged to find that the people of Hadleyville turn cowardly when the time comes for a showdown, and he must face Miller and his cronies alone.

Ken Burns Presents: The West (documentary) This is, rather obviously, a documentary film about the American Old West.

Lewis and Clark: The Great Journey West (2002, National Geographic) Explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark lead a U.S. expedition to the Pacific Ocean and back.

Lonesome Dove (TV miniseries) Two former Texas Rangers renew their spirit of adventure as they and several other residents of a small Texas town join a cattle drive to the Montana Territory. With a mini-series, feel free to choose any two episodes and watch those.

The Alamo (2004, PG-13) In 1836 Gen. Sam Houston organizes a rebel army to liberate Texas from the brutal rule of Mexican dictator General Santa Anna. As Santa Anna's forces advance on San Antonio, the legendary general and his men prepare for a final heroic standoff at a battle-worn mission called the Alamo.

The Searchers (1956, PG) Ethan Edwards is a bitter and restless veteran of the Confederate Army. As the story opens, he visits his brother's homestead on the fringe of a desert wilderness in the American West. When a band of renegade Indians massacres his brother and most of the family and then kidnaps his niece, Ethan embarks on a search for the girl and her captors.

The Great Depression

Seabiscuit (2003, PG-13) In the midst of the Great Depression, a businessman coping with the tragic death of his son, a jockey with a history of brutal injuries and a down-and-out horse trainer team up to help Seabiscuit, a temperamental, undersized racehorse.

The Grapes of Wrath (1940, NR) The Joad clan, introduced to the world in John Steinbeck's iconic novel, is looking for a better life in California. After their farm is seized by the bank, the family — led by just-paroled son Tom — loads up a truck and heads West.

World War I

Flyboys (2006, PG-13) Before the U.S. entered World War I, American men volunteered in France, becoming part of the pioneering of aerial warfare. This film tells the story of the Lafayette Escadrille, the American unit in France whose exploits became the stuff of legend.

Sergeant York (1941, NR) Prize-winning Tennessee marksman finds himself torn between his non-violent beliefs and his desire to serve when recruited to fight in World War I. The pacifist's prowess with a rifle earns him honors as he continues to struggle with his decision to kill.

World War II

A League of Their Own (1992, PG) As America's stock of athletic young men is depleted during World War II, a professional all-female baseball league springs up in the Midwest

Casablanca (1942, NR) This drama is considered by many to be the finest American film ever made. It is a powerful love story set amid the everyday intrigue and danger of living in Nazi-controlled North Africa.

Fat Man and Little Boy (1989, PG-13) This film tells of the Manhattan Project, the super-secret U.S. program to make the first atomic bomb.

Memphis Belle (1990, PG-13) This film tells the story of the 10-member crew of the B-17 bomber *Memphis Belle*, which was the first U.S. Army Air Force crew to successfully complete all 25 missions over Nazi-controlled Europe

Midway (1976, PG) World War II, Pacific Theater: The Japanese follow their stunning victory at Pearl Harbor with a massive assault on Midway Island, a strategic U.S. outpost in the Pacific. The U.S. Navy is ready, and looking for revenge.

Patton (1970, PG) This biographical film centers on World War II hero Gen. George Patton, following him from his entry into the North African campaign and ending with his removal from command. Patton fights not only the Germans, but also his own worst instincts.

Red Tails (2012, PG-13) A crew of African American pilots in the Tuskegee pilot training program face the challenges of bigotry and segregation during World War II. Despite this, the Tuskegee Airmen, as they become known, more than prove their worth.

Stalag 17 (1953, NR) Two Americans trying to escape a German prisoner of war camp are killed during the attempt. Among the remaining men, suspicion grows that one of their own is a German spy. All eyes fall on Sgt. Sefton, who must find the true traitor to protect his own life

The Tuskegee Airmen (1995, PG-13) This film tells the story of the African-American 332nd Fighter Group of the Army Air Corps. While semi-fictional, the film accurately portrays the struggle of black Americans in their efforts to be accepted as worthy soldiers.

Twelve O'Clock High (1949, NR) A new commander is posted to a WWII American heavy bomber group assigned to daylight bombing runs over targets in Germany and occupied Europe. Fighter escorts have not yet arrived from the U.S. and casualties are high. The unit is functioning poorly and morale is low. Can the new commander make the bomber group into an effective fighting unit under these conditions?

The Best Years of Our Lives (1946, NR) This film begins the moment 3 battle-hardened veterans return home to America after serving in World War II. They struggle to step back into lives that have changed, surrounded by people who admire them, but don't understand them.

The Devil's Arithmetic (1999, TV movie) A 16-year-old American girl with an apathetic view toward her Jewish family finds herself pulled through time into a Polish village in 1941, where the Nazis have just begun their genocidal "final solution"

The Great Escape (1963, NR) Based on a true story, this film tells of ingenious American and British efforts to get nearly 200 prisoners out of an escape-proof German POW camp during World War II complete with fake German clothing, papers, money, and more.

Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970, G) This dramatic retelling of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor is told from both Japanese and American perspectives, giving a realistic, detailed look at the events leading up to that tragic moment in American history.

U-571 (2000, PG-13) When a German sub carrying sophisticated encryption machinery on board is sunk, an American Navy force is sent to board the German ship in disguise and retrieve the machine before the Nazis can send naval backup.

Unbroken (2014, PG-13) After a near-fatal plane crash in World War II, Olympian Louis Zamperini spends a harrowing 47 days in a raft with two fellow crewmen before he's caught by the Japanese navy and sent to a prisoner of war camp

Von Ryan's Express (1965, NR) When Allied prisoners stage a massive breakout from an Italian POW camp, they commandeer a train and head for the Swiss border. However, the Germans soon catch on and head out to stop them

Victory (1981, PG) The head of a German POW camp, soccer enthusiast Karl von Steiner, organizes a match between his Nazi soldiers and their Allied captives. The high-profile game gives the team of Allied soldiers the chance to plan a dangerous escape.

The Cold War

Miracle (2004, PG) When coach Herb Brooks is hired to helm the 1980 men's Olympic hockey team, he brings a unique and brash style to the ice. As the U.S. squad tries to overcome insurmountable odds, the team becomes a microcosm for American patriotism during the Cold War.

The Hunt for Red October (1990, PG) This suspenseful movie tracks Soviet submarine captive Marko Ramius as he abandons his orders and heads for the U.S. coast. Are his intentions to launch an attack on America, or will CIA agent Jack Ryan discover another motivation?

The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming (1966, NR) This comedy follows the bumbling efforts of a Soviet submarine crew hoping to get their sub unstuck from American soil, while panicked Americans worry their island is being invaded. This was one of the few films to be shown in Russia during the Cold War, and it had a major impact on both the U.S. and Russia during the height of the Cold War.

Thirteen Days (2000, PG-13) For thirteen extraordinary days in October of 1962, the world stood on the brink of an unthinkable catastrophe as the U.S. and the Soviet Union engaged in a nuclear standoff. This film tells of President JFK's efforts to end the nuclear threat in Cuba.

Bridge of Spies (2015, PG-13) During the Cold War, the Soviet Union captures U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers after shooting down his U-2 spy plane. Sentenced to 10 years in prison, Powers' only hope is lawyer James Donovan, recruited by a CIA operative to negotiate his release.

The American Civil Rights movement

42 (2013, PG-13) The film tells the story of Jackie Robinson and, under the guidance of team executive Branch Rickey, Robinson's signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers to become the first African-American player to break the baseball color barrier.

Freedom Riders (2010, documentary) Freedom Riders is a 2010 American historical documentary film based in part on the book *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice*, by historian Raymond Arsenault.

Eyes on the Prize (1987, documentary) Using interviews, court decisions and historical footage, this tells the incredible story of the Civil Rights movement from the viewpoint of the ordinary man. The film discusses many of the instrumental individuals and milestones of the time

Remember the Titans (2000, PG) This classic movie tells the true story of how a black football coach breaks racial barriers in Virginia.

Ruby Bridges (1998, TV movie) Six year-old Ruby Bridges was the first black girl to attend a public school during the 1960s. Despite facing racism and challenges, Ruby persevered and is an excellent role model for youth today

Selma (2014, PG-13) In 1965, an Alabama city became the battleground in the fight for suffrage. Despite violent opposition, marchers pressed forward on an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, and their efforts culminated in President Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act

Selma, Lord, Selma (1999, TV movie) In 1965, Sheyann and Rachel, two African-American girls from Selma, Alabama, become active in the Civil Rights Movement. Along with a white friend, the two young girls participate in the famous Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march

The Butler (2013, PG-13) After leaving the South as a young man and finding employment at an elite hotel in Washington, D.C., Cecil Gaines gets the opportunity of a lifetime when he is hired as a butler at the White House. Over three decades, Cecil has a front-row seat to history

The Ghosts of Mississippi (1996, PG-13) This film recounts the retrial and conviction of the assassin of Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers, some 30 years after the murder.

The Help (2011, PG-13) Adapted from the book of the same name, the film explores what life was like for several maids during the 1960s in Jackson, Mississippi. African American servants were a staple in the Southern household, and this film strives to tell their story.

The Rosa Parks Story (2002, NR) This biopic tells the story of civil rights activist Rosa Parks (Angela Bassett) from her days as a private-school student to her public battle against racism and segregation.

To Kill a Mockingbird (1962, NR) This film examines racism in the pre-civil rights American South from a child's eye. Gregory Peck stars as Atticus Finch, charged with defending an African American man falsely accused of the rape of a white woman

The Space Race

Apollo 13 (1995, PG) A look at how three Americans astronauts made it back to Earth after an explosion during their trip to the moon left them perilously close to being stranded in space. Based on a true story and the book by Commander Jim Lovell.

October Sky (1999, PG) West Virginia boy Homer Hickam is destined for the coal mines, but he becomes interested in rocket science after seeing Russia's Sputnik. Despite his father's disapproval, Homer begins building rockets, hoping they will prove to be his ticket to a better life.

From the Earth to the Moon (TV miniseries) This series follows the landmark Apollo expeditions to the moon during the 1960s and 1970s. Watch 2 episodes; I'd recommend "Can We Do This?" "1968," "Spider," "Mare Tranquilitas," "That's All There Is," or "Galileo Was Right"

In the Shadow of the Moon (2007, PG) In 1961, NASA started its Apollo program to realize President John F. Kennedy's dream of putting a man on the moon. This documentary retells the story of the program's mission through archival footage and interviews with the astronauts.

The Right Stuff (1983, PG) What does it take to be one of America's first astronauts? Why, the "right stuff," obviously. This film follows the lives of the seven men who volunteered for the first manned space flight in the United States of America — the Mercury Seven.

Hidden Figures (2016) Three brilliant African-American women working at NASA around the time of America's first manned space launches experience the challenges of the Civil Rights movement, the Space Race, and a world that's slowly changing for the better.

First Man (2018, PG-13) This movie tells the story of Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon. It explores the life of this enigmatic figure from his personal tragedies to his experience with tragedies and triumphs in the space program.

The Vietnam War

All the President's Men (1976, PG) This film follows two reporters from *The Washington Post*, whose dogged pursuit of the facts surrounding political espionage by the Nixon administration ultimately resulted in President Nixon's resignation.

9/11

World Trade Center (2006, PG-13) This film captures the heroism of the firefighters who went into the World Trade Center towers on September 11, 2001, determined to help rescue those trapped by the terrorist attacks

Flight 93 (2006, PG-13) This tells of the 4th hijacked plane on 9/11 and the heroic efforts made by passengers determined to stop the terrorists

Other stories from American history

The Blind Side (2009, PG-13) Michael Oher, a homeless black teen, has drifted in and out of the school system for years. Then Leigh Anne Tuohy and her husband take him in, transforming both his life and theirs. Based on the true story of Michael Oher of the Carolina Panthers

McFarland, USA (2015, PG) Track coach Jim White is a newcomer to a predominantly Latino school in California's Central Valley. He and his new students find they have much to learn about one another, but things change when White realizes the boys' exceptional running ability.

Million Dollar Arm (2014, PG) In a last-ditch effort to save his career, sports agent J.B. Bernstein (Jon Hamm) plans to find baseball's next star pitcher. He heads to India to find a cricket player whom he can nurture into a major league star.

Rudy (1993, PG) Rudy Ruettiger wants to play football at the University of Notre Dame, but has neither the money for tuition nor the grades to qualify for a scholarship. Even so, Rudy gains admission to Notre Dame and begins to fight his way onto the school's fabled football team

Hoosiers (PG, 1986) Failed college coach Norman Dale gets a chance at redemption when he is hired to direct the basketball program at a high school in a tiny Indiana town.

The Rookie (2002, G) Jim Morris never made it out of the minor leagues before a shoulder injury ended his pitching career. Now a high school chemistry teacher and baseball coach, Jim's team makes a deal with him: if they win the district championship, Jim will try out with a major-league organization.

Coach Carter (2005, PG-13) In 1999, Ken Carter returns to his old high school get the basketball team into shape. With tough rules and academic discipline, he succeeds in setting the players on a winning streak. But when their grades start to suffer, Carter shuts down their championship season.

Invincible (2006, PG) While teaching at his high school alma mater, Vince Papale gets a chance to try out for his favorite team and, except for kickers, becomes the oldest rookie in NFL history who never played football in college.

Smoke Signals (1998, PG-13) Victor Joseph is a Native American in his late teens who lives on the Coeur d'Alene Indian reservation in Northern Idaho. On a road trip to retrieve his dead father's ashes, he learns how to forgive his abusive father and the nature of true friendship.

Balto (1995, G) An animated Disney film based on the true story of Balto, an Alaska sled dog that helped save children from a diphtheria epidemic by carrying a serum to the town of Nome in 1925

World history

All Quiet on the Western Front (1930, NR) One of the most powerful statements ever made about war, this film about World War One follows young idealistic German students, all eager to fight for the Fatherland, as they encounter the murderous reality of modern warfare.

A Man for All Seasons (1996, G) When Henry VIII of England broke away from the Catholic Church, Sir Thomas More, one of his chief subordinates, refused to go along as a matter of conscience, despite knowing that his beliefs would likely cost him his head

Amazing Grace (2006, PG) In 18th-century England, House of Commons member William Wilberforce and his close friend and a future prime minister, William Pitt, begin a lengthy battle to abolish Great Britain's slave trade through legislative means.

Ben-Hur (1959, G) Charlton Heston plays a Palestinian Jew who is battling the Roman Empire. His actions send him and his family into slavery, but an inspirational encounter with Jesus changes everything. Heston finally meets his rival in a justly famous chariot race

Chariots of Fire (1981, PG) In the class-obsessed and religiously divided United Kingdom of the early 1920s, two determined young runners train for the 1924 Paris Olympics. Eric Liddell, a devout Christian born to Scottish missionaries in China, sees running as part of his worship of God's glory and refuses to train or compete on the Sabbath. Harold Abrahams overcomes anti-Semitism and class bias

Cool Runnings (1993, PG) Four Jamaican bobsledders dream of competing in the Winter Olympics, despite never having seen snow. With the help of a disgraced former champion desperate to redeem himself, they set out to become worthy of Olympic selection, and go all out for glory.

Eddie the Eagle (2016, PG-13) Cut from the Olympic ski team, British athlete Michael "Eddie" Edwards travels to Germany to test his skills. Despite an entire nation counting him out, Eddie's never-say-die attitude takes him all the way to a historic showing at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

Fiddler on the Roof (1971, G) This movie tells the life-affirming story of Tevye, a poor milkman whose love, pride and faith help him face the oppression of turn-of-the-century czarist Russia. Plan on romance, humor, and songs that'll get stuck in your head

Gandhi (1982, PG) Nine Oscars went to this sweeping biography of the greatest Indian leader who preached non-violence and tolerance. Ben Kingsley stars with a "cast of thousands" but beautifully delivers an intimate, revealing performance

Grave of the Fireflies (1998) A devastating meditation on the human cost of war, this anime tale follows Seita, a teenager charged with the care of his younger sister, Setsuko, after an American firebombing during World War II separates the two children from their parents.

Hotel Rwanda (2004, PG-13) When Hutu military forces initiate a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Tutsi minority, Paul Rusesabagina, a Hutu who manages the Hôtel des Mille Collines, is compelled to allow refugees to take shelter in his hotel. As the U.N. pulls out, Paul must struggle alone to protect the Tutsi refugees in the face of the escalating violence later known as the Rwandan genocide.

Invictus (PG-13, 2009) Following the fall of apartheid, newly elected President Nelson Mandela faces a South Africa that is racially and economically divided. Believing he can unite his countrymen through the universal language of sport, Mandela joins forces with Francois Pienaar, captain of the rugby team, to rally South Africans behind a bid for the 1995 World Cup Championship.

Lawrence of Arabia (1962, PG) Peter O'Toole stars as T.E. Lawrence, an eccentric British officer who is transformed into a hero in World War I during the Arab revolt against Turkey. This sweeping epic is regarded as one of the greatest of all films

Master and Commander (2003, PG-13) A realistic look at life aboard a British warship back in 1805 when Britain and France were battling each other for world dominance. In this film, the HMS Surprise battles the French in the South Atlantic

Miracle at Midnight (1998, TV movie) This film tells how Danish citizens risked their lives in 1943 to save Jews in Denmark from arrest and deportation to concentration camps.

Swiss Family Robinson (1960, G) In this family film, the Robinson clan — mother, father, and their three sons, Fritz, Ernst and Francis — flee the reign of Napoleon to start afresh in New Guinea. When their ship sinks, the family takes refuge on a deserted island.

The Book Thief (2013, PG-13) In 1938, orphan Liesel arrives at the home of her new foster parents, Hans and Rosa. When Hans learns that Liesel cannot read, he teaches the child the wonders of the written language. Though Liesel's new family barely scrape by, their situation becomes even more precarious when they secretly shelter a Jewish boy

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (2008, PG-13) During World War II, 8-year-old Bruno and his family take up residence near the concentration camp where his father has just become commandant. Unhappy and lonely, he wanders out behind his house one day and finds Shmuel, a Jewish boy of his age. Though the barbed-wire fence of the camp separates them, the boys begin a forbidden friendship, oblivious to the real nature of their surroundings.

The Diary of Anne Frank (1959, NR) The saga of 2 Jewish families forced into hiding in an attic during World War II, as told by Anne Frank

The Diary of Anne Frank (2009, Masterpiece Classic, miniseries) Based on the diary of the teen girl hiding in Nazi-controlled Amsterdam

The Last Emperor (1987, PG-13) This multi-Oscar winning epic tells the story of the life of Pu Yi, who was chosen at age 3 to be Emperor of China and was soon swept up in the tide of history, including the Japanese invasion during World War II and the emergence of Communist.

The Sound of Music (1965, G) Based on the real-life story of the Von Trapp Family Singers, this film tells of the entry of tomboyish postulant Maria into the family's lives, and how the looming threat of World War II and the Nazis change everything

The Way Back (2010, PG-13) Denounced by his wife as a spy in 1939, Janusz finds himself in a remote Siberian labor camp. A blizzard provides him with the perfect opportunity for escape, and he and some fellow prisoners make a break for it. Escape, however, is the easy part

The White Rose (1982) During World War II, a group of university students begin to question the Nazi regime and form a resistance cell that they name the "White Rose." The German Gestapo soon pledges to hunt down and destroy the secret organization.

The Wooden Horse (1950, NR) Three British officers escape from a WWII POW camp by tunneling under an outdoor gym horse.

Valiant (2005, G) Set in 1944 before D-Day, this British Disney film is about Britain's messenger pigeons during World War II. In the end, we learn pigeons played a bigger role in the war than horses, dogs, or cats.

War Horse (2011, PG-13) Albert and his beloved horse, Joey, live on a farm in the British countryside. At the outbreak of World War I, Albert's father sells the horse to the British cavalry. Against the backdrop of the Great War, Joey begins an odyssey full of danger, joy and sorrow, and he transforms everyone he meets along the way.

Whale Rider (2002, PG-13) Only males are allowed to ascend to chieftom in a Maori tribe in New Zealand. This ancient custom is upset when the child selected to be the next chief dies at birth. However his twin sister, Pai, survives. At age 12, she enlists the help of her grandmother and the training of her uncle to claim her birthright.