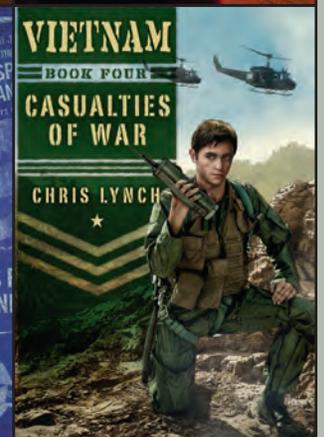
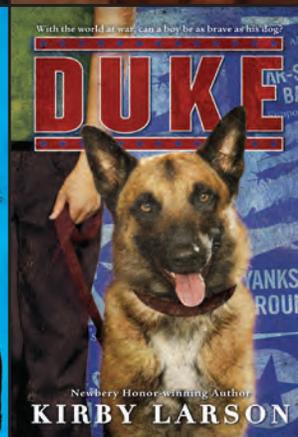
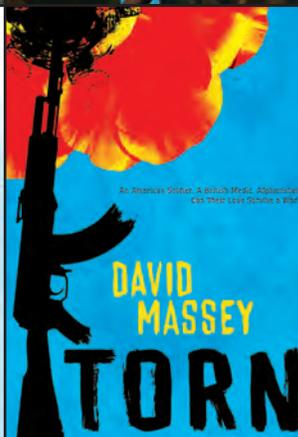
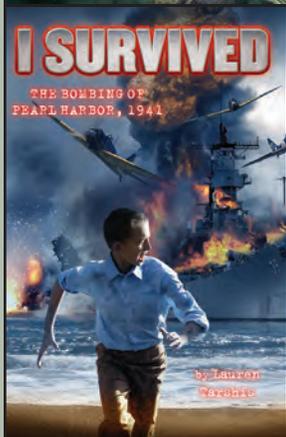
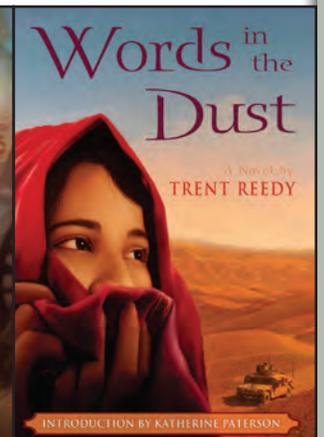
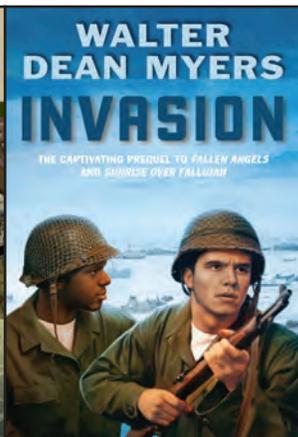
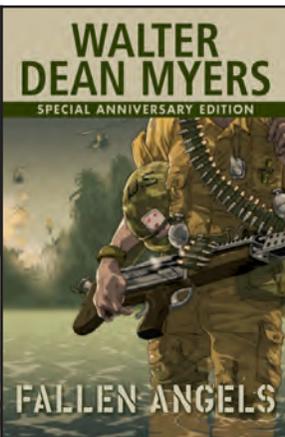
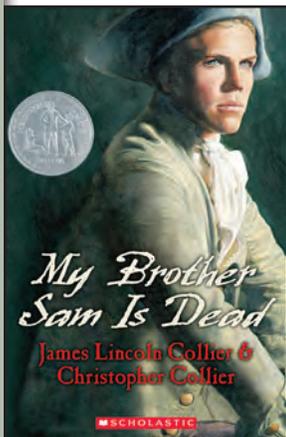
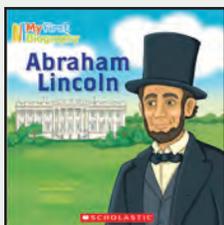
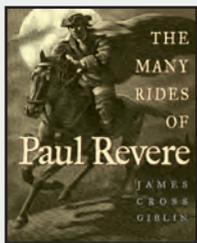
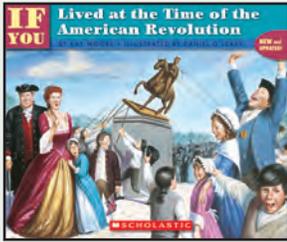


# A Guide to Teaching and Talking About War with Books for Children and Teens

Use this guide to teach to the Common Core State Standards—see details throughout!





# A Guide to Teaching and Talking About War with Books for Children and Teens

War has existed since the beginning of recorded history. Countless histories, novels, plays, and movies have dealt with war. Young people cannot avoid finding out about war, either through these and other sources or, in some cases, from direct experience.

The challenge for parents and teachers is to introduce the topic of war to children and teens in a way that is responsible, honest, and appropriate to their age and level of understanding. Many young people absorb only a few dates and facts with little understanding of the causes of war, the realities of the battlefield, or the devastating consequences for the lives of civilians in war-torn nations. They may need help understanding or dealing with the impact of war on family members whose loved ones leave for long periods of deployment and sometimes never return.

The books on this list—fiction, fact, or fantasy—can help young readers explore these many difficult issues according to their age and level of understanding. Whether you're studying a particular historical period in the classroom, or sitting at the kitchen table with your family, we hope this guide will provide useful ideas for learning, discussion, and understanding.

## The discussion questions in this guide support teaching to the following Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.

For more guidance, see after each question the specific Standards to which the question correlates.

### READING STANDARDS FOR LITERATURE

#### Key Ideas and Details

**RL.1.** Demonstrate understanding of key details in a text; cite textual evidence that supports an analysis of what the text says, as well as inferences drawn from the text. (Grades 1-12)

**RL.2.** Determine the theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; analyze the development of the themes or central ideas over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text. (Grades 3-12)

**RL.3.** Describe characters, settings, or events in a story, drawing on specific details in the text; analyze how characters interact, develop, change, and respond to events in the story. (Grades K-12)

#### Craft and Structure

**RL.4.** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including metaphors and similes; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning or tone. (Grades 4-12)

**RL.5.** Refer to or explain the parts or structure of a story and how they contribute to the whole; analyze how the author's choices concerning specific parts of a story contribute to its overall structure and meaning. (Grades 3-12)

**RL.6.** Understand and compare the different points of view in which stories are narrated; analyze how and why the author develops point of view. (Grades 1-12)

#### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

**RL.7.** Explain how illustrations contribute to what is conveyed in a story; compare a written story to its audio, filmed, or staged version; analyze multiple interpretations of a story. (Grades 1-5 and 7-12)

**RL.9.** Compare and contrast the treatment of a topic in different stories; compare a fictional portrayal to a historical account; analyze how an author draws from and transforms source material in a particular work. (Grades 4-12)

### READING STANDARDS FOR INFORMATIONAL TEXT

#### Key Ideas and Details

**RIT.1.** Demonstrate understanding of key details in a text; cite textual evidence that supports an analysis of what the text says as well as inferences drawn from the text. (Grades 1-9)

**RIT.2.** Determine the theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; analyze the development of the themes or central ideas over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text. (Grades 1-9)

**RIT.3.** Describe the relationships between individuals, ideas, events, or concepts in a text; analyze how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events; analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events. (Grades K-10)

#### Craft and Structure

**RIT.4.** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text; determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning or tone. (Grades 1-7)

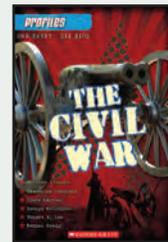
**RIT.5.** Compare and contrast the overall structure of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts; analyze the structure that the author uses to organize a text, and how the author's ideas or claims are developed. (Grades 5-9)

**RIT.6.** Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic; determine the author's point of view or purpose. (Grades 5-9)

#### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

**RIT.7.** Explain how illustrations, maps, photographs, diagrams, graphs, and charts contribute to the understanding of a text; draw on information in different media or formats; compare a text to an audio, video, or multimedia portrayal of the topic. (Grades 1-9)

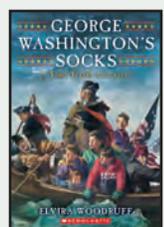
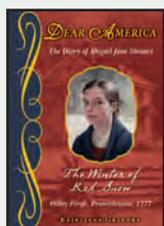
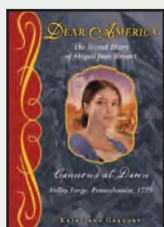
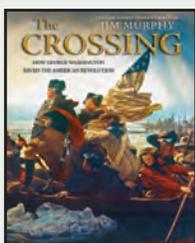
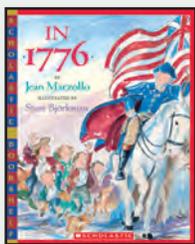
**RIT.8.** Explain how an author uses reasons or evidence to support particular points in a text; trace and evaluate the argument and claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims. (Grades 4-7)



# The American Revolutionary War

"Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?...I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

—Patrick Henry



## YOUNG READERS

**George Washington (Scholastic Reader, Level 2)**  
By Garnet Jackson and Y. H. Hu  
Nonfiction, Ages 4 to 8  
PB: 978-0-439-09867-0 • \$3.99

**I Am #5: George Washington**  
By Grace Norwich  
Nonfiction, Ages 8 to 10  
PB: 978-0-545-48435-0 • \$5.99

**If You Lived at the Time of the American Revolution**  
By Kay Moore,  
illustrated by Daniel O'Leary  
Nonfiction, Ages 7 to 10  
PB: 978-0-590-67444-7 • \$6.99

**If You Were There When They Signed the Constitution**  
By Elizabeth Levy,  
illustrated by Joan Holub  
Nonfiction, Ages 7 to 10  
PB: 978-0-590-45159-8 • \$6.99

**In 1776**  
By Jean Marzollo,  
illustrated by Steve Björkman  
Nonfiction, Ages 4 to 8  
PB: 978-0-545-11073-0 • \$6.99

**Those Rebels, John and Tom**  
By Barbara Kerley and  
Edwin Fotheringham  
Nonfiction picture book,  
Ages 7 to 10  
HC: 978-0-545-22268-6 • \$17.99

## Discussion Questions

1. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams each had a skill that made them special. Choose one of these, or another early patriot, and describe what made that person important. How did each contribute to America's independence? (CCSS.1-4.RIT.3)
2. Each of the leaders in the early days of America had to learn to cooperate and compromise in order to work together. How did these early leaders develop the skills to work with one another? (CCSS.1-4.RIT.1,2,4)
3. How do the illustrations in these books help you to understand our early history? How does the combination of art and text in an informational book enhance comprehension? (CCSS.1-4.RIT.7)

## MIDDLE GRADE

**The Crossing: How George Washington Saved the American Revolution**  
By Jim Murphy  
Nonfiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-439-69186-4 • \$21.99

**Dear America: Cannons at Dawn**  
By Kristiana Gregory  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-21319-6 • \$12.99  
LIB: 978-0-545-28088-4 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-38850-4 • \$12.99  
Also available in Audiobook

**Dear America: The Winter of Red Snow**  
By Kristiana Gregory  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-23802-1 • \$12.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-41500-2 • \$12.99

**George Washington's Socks**  
By Elvira Woodruff  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
PB: 978-0-590-44036-3 • \$5.99

**George Washington's Spy**  
By Elvira Woodruff  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-10487-6 • \$16.99  
PB: 978-0-545-10488-3 • \$5.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-41516-3 • \$5.99

**The Many Rides of Paul Revere**  
By James Cross Giblin  
Nonfiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-439-57290-3 • \$17.99

**The Secret Soldier: The Story of Deborah Sampson**  
By Ann McGovern and Harold Goodwin  
Nonfiction, Ages 9 and up  
PB: 978-0-590-43052-4 • \$6.99

**A True Patriot: The Journal of William Thomas Emerson, a Revolutionary War Patriot**  
By Barry Denenberg  
Fiction, Ages 9 to 14  
PB: 978-0-545-39890-9 • \$6.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-47006-3 • \$6.99

## Discussion Questions

1. How did the major events of the American Revolution affect the everyday lives of ordinary people? Choose one of these events and discuss its impact on daily life. (CCSS.3-7.RL.1,2,3)
2. Compare the information you learn from a fictional account and a nonfiction book about the same time period. How do these two differ and how do they help you understand the events that occur? (CCSS.3-7.RL.3,6) (CCSS.3-7.RIT.5,6)
3. What does it mean to be a hero? Which of the people you read about—both fictional characters and historical figures—would you consider a hero and why? (CCSS.3-7.RL.2) (CCSS.3-7.RIT.2)

# The American Revolutionary War (continued)

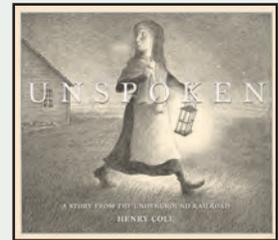
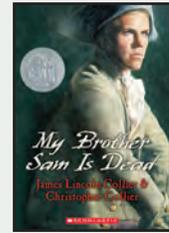
## YOUNG ADULT

### **My Brother Sam Is Dead**

(A Newbery Honor Book)  
By James Lincoln Collier  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up  
PB: 978-0-439-78360-6 • \$6.99

### Discussion Questions

1. Why did some people remain loyal to Great Britain during the American Revolution? Why did others join the “rebels”? (CCSS.7-10.RL.1,2) Analyze the motives of both Sam and his father for their beliefs about the war and reasons for the choices they make. (CCSS.7-10.RL.3)
2. How does the author create tension throughout this story? Why is the story told from Tim’s point of view? (CCSS.7-10.RL.5)



# The American Civil War

“It is well that war is so terrible. We should grow too fond of it.”

—Robert E. Lee

## YOUNG READERS

### **A. Lincoln and Me**

By Louise Borden and Ted Lewin  
Fiction picture book, Ages 3 to 5  
PB: 978-0-439-86277-6 • \$6.99

### **I Survived #7: I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863**

By Lauren Tarshis  
Fiction, Ages 7 to 10  
PB: 978-0-545-45936-5 • \$4.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-53225-9 • \$4.99

### **If You Lived at the Time of the Civil War**

By Kay Moore and Anni Matsick  
Nonfiction, Ages 7 to 10  
PB: 978-0-590-45422-3 • \$6.99

### **My First Biography: Abraham Lincoln**

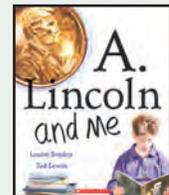
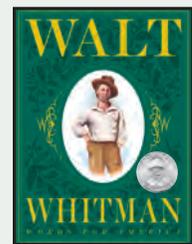
By Marion Dane Bauer and Liz Goulet Dubois  
Nonfiction, Ages 3 to 5  
PB: 978-0-545-34294-0 • \$3.99

### **Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad**

By Henry Cole  
Wordless fiction picture book  
Ages 4 and up  
HC: 978-0-545-39997-5 • \$16.99

### **Walt Whitman**

(A Sibert Honor Book)  
By Barbara Kerley and Brian Selznick  
Nonfiction picture book,  
Ages 7 to 10  
HC: 978-0-439-35791-3 • \$16.99



### Discussion Questions

1. Compare the character of Abraham Lincoln in a fictional book and a nonfiction book. What do you learn about our 16th president from each of these? (CCSS.K-1.RL.3) (CCSS.K-1.RIT.3)
2. Compare the character of Walt Whitman to other well-known persons during the Civil War period. Why was Whitman important? What did he contribute to the war effort? (CCSS.2-5.RIT.1,3)
3. How do individual authors and artists use different techniques to tell the story of the Underground Railroad? Why was the Underground Railroad important? (CCSS.2-5.RL.1,7) (CCSS.2-5.RIT.1,7)



## MIDDLE GRADE

### **Dear America:**

#### **A Light in the Storm**

By Karen Hesse  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-24245-5 • \$12.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-41561-3 • \$12.99

#### **Dear America: When Will This Cruel War Be Over?**

By Barry Denenberg  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-27598-9 • \$12.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-41502-6 • \$12.99

#### **Elijah of Buxton**

(A Newbery Honor Book)  
By Christopher Paul Curtis  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-439-02344-3 • \$16.99  
PB: 978-0-439-02345-0 • \$7.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-28119-5 • \$7.99

### **Freedom Crossing**

By Margaret Goff Clark  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
PB: 978-0-590-44569-6 • \$5.99

### **Girl in Blue**

By Ann Rinaldi  
Fiction, Ages 9 to 14  
PB: 978-0-439-67646-5 • \$7.99

### **The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg**

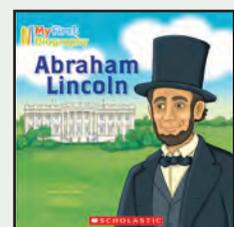
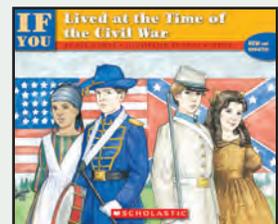
(A Newbery Honor Book)  
By Rodman Philbrick  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-439-66818-7 • \$16.99  
PB: 978-0-439-66821-7 • \$6.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-37087-5 • \$6.99

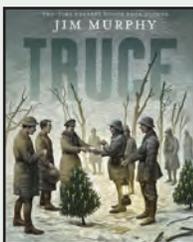
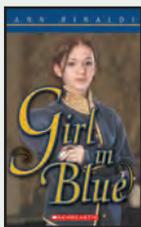
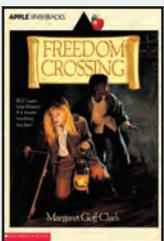
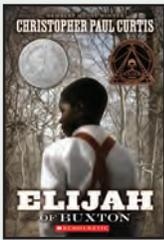
### **On Enemy Soil: The Journal of James Edmond Pease, A Civil War Union Soldier**

By Jim Murphy  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
PB: 978-0-545-39887-9 • \$6.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-46963-0 • \$6.99

### **Profiles #1: The Civil War**

By Aaron Rosenberg  
Nonfiction, Ages 8 to 12  
PB: 978-0-545-23756-7 • \$6.99  
LIB: 978-0-545-28926-9 • \$14.99





## The American Civil War (continued)

### Discussion Questions

1. Identify some of the issues leading up to the Civil War and discuss how they contributed to the inevitability of war between the states. (CCSS.4-7.RL.1,2) (CCSS.4-7.RIT.1,2,3)
2. Compare a fictional story about the war with a nonfiction account of the events. What can you learn best from each type of book? Describe how the point of view affects your understanding of a story. (CCSS.4-7.RL.1,3,6) (CCSS.4-7.RIT.1,3,6)
3. Discuss the concepts of courage, cowardice, and neutrality as they relate to the Civil War. How did the people you read about, both fictional and historical figures, react to events in the war and respond to the challenges of the period? (CCSS.4-7.RL.2,3) (CCSS.4-7.RIT.2,4,8)

## World War I

“The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.” —G. K. Chesterton

### MIDDLE GRADE

#### **Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting**

By Jim Murphy  
Nonfiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-13049-3 • \$19.99

#### **War Horse**

By Michael Morpurgo  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-439-79663-7 • \$17.99  
PB: 978-0-439-79664-4 • \$6.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-31185-4 • \$6.99  
Also available in Audiobook

### YOUNG ADULT

#### **Private Peaceful**

By Michael Morpurgo  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up  
HC: 978-0-439-63648-3 • \$16.95  
PB: 978-0-439-63653-7 • \$7.99

### Discussion Questions

1. Compare the titles *Private Peaceful* and *War Horse*, and discuss the irony of the titles. Analyze the author’s word choices for characters and places on the home front and contrast those with the language used in the midst of the war. (CCSS.5-9.RL.4,5)
2. In all three of these books, soldiers act on their own to defy orders from their officers. Compare these situations and what each of them meant for the characters involved. (CCSS.5-9.RL.3,6) (CCSS.5-9.RIT.1,2,6)
3. Read Wilfred Owens’s poem “*Dulce et Decorum Est*” and compare it to the description of soldiers in both *Truce* and *Private Peaceful*. How does the depiction of this war differ in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry? Compare the experience of reading *War Horse* with seeing the movie version of the same story. (CCSS.7-9.RL.5,7) (CCSS.7-9.RIT.5,7)

# World War II

“Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime.”

—Ernest Hemingway

## YOUNG READERS

### Crow Call

By Lois Lowry and Bagram Ibatoulline  
Fiction picture book, Ages 4 to 8  
HC: 978-0-545-03035-9 • \$16.99

### I Survived #4: I Survived the Bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941

By Lauren Tarshis  
Fiction, Ages 7 to 10  
HC: 978-0-545-20691-4 • \$16.99  
PB: 978-0-545-20698-3 • \$4.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-38814-6 • \$4.99

### I Survived #9: I Survived the Nazi Occupation, 1944

By Lauren Tarshis  
Fiction, Ages 7 to 10  
PB: 978-0-545-45938-9 • \$4.99  
(March 2014)

## Discussion Questions

1. How do the characters in each of these books feel about their home? How is their home life affected by the war? (CCSS.1-5.RL.3)
2. What can you learn about rural Pennsylvania, Hawaii, and occupied Poland in the 1940s from reading these stories? How did war affect people differently living in each of these places? (CCSS.1-5.RL.7)

## MIDDLE GRADE

### The Boy Who Dared

By Susan Campbell Bartoletti  
Fiction, Ages 10 to 14  
HC: 978-0-439-68013-4 • \$16.99

### Dear America: The Fences Between Us

By Kirby Larson  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-22418-5 • \$12.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-41499-9 • \$12.99  
Also available in Audiobook

### Duke

By Kirby Larson  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-41637-5 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-57644-4 • \$16.99

### Escape: Children of the Holocaust

By Allan Zullo  
Nonfiction, Ages 8 to 12  
PB: 978-0-545-09929-5 • \$5.99

### Ghosts in the Fog: The Untold Story of Alaska's WWII Invasion

By Samantha Seiple  
Nonfiction, Ages 10 to 14  
HC: 978-0-545-29654-0 • \$17.99

### Haunters

By Thomas Taylor  
Fiction, Ages 10 to 14  
HC: 978-0-545-49644-5 • \$17.99

### Hidden Like Anne Frank

By Marcel Prins and Peter Henk Steenhuis  
Nonfiction, Ages 10 to 14  
HC: 978-0-545-54362-0 • \$16.99  
(April 2014)

### Hiroshima

By Laurence Yep  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
PB: 978-0-590-20833-8 • \$5.99

### Hitler Youth

(A Newbery Honor Book, A Sibert Honor Book)  
By Susan Campbell Bartoletti  
Nonfiction, Ages 10 and up  
HC: 978-0-439-35379-3 • \$21.99

### Prisoner B-3087: The Story of Jack and Ruth Gruener

By Alan Gratz  
Nonfiction, Ages 10 to 14  
HC: 978-0-545-45901-3 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-52071-3 • \$16.99

### Profiles #2: World War II

By Aaron Rosenberg  
Nonfiction, Ages 10 to 14  
PB: 978-0-545-31655-2 • \$6.99

### The Romeo and Juliet Code

By Phoebe Stone  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-21511-4 • \$16.99  
PB: 978-0-545-21827-6 • \$6.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-44309-8 • \$6.99

### Romeo Blue

By Phoebe Stone  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-44360-9 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-52070-6 • \$16.99

### Saving Zasha

By Randi Barrow  
Fiction, Ages 10 to 14  
HC: 978-0-545-20632-7 • \$16.99  
PB: 978-0-545-20633-4 • \$6.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-53227-3 • \$6.99

### Finding Zasha

By Randi Barrow  
Fiction, Ages 10 to 14  
HC: 978-0-545-45218-2 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-53223-5 • \$16.99

### Scholastic Discover More: World War II

By Sean Callery  
Nonfiction, Ages 10 to 14  
HC: 978-0-545-47975-2 • \$15.99

### Snow Treasure

By Marie McSwigan  
Fiction, Ages 8 and up  
PB: 978-0-590-42537-7 • \$4.99

### We Were Heroes: The Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins, a World War II Soldier

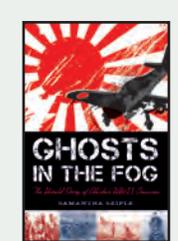
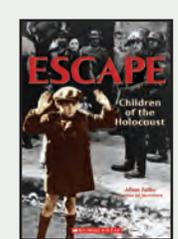
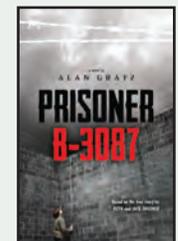
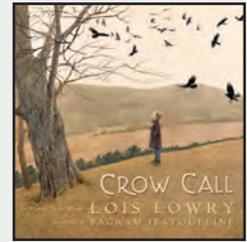
By Walter Dean Myers  
Fiction, Ages 10 to 14  
PB: 978-0-545-39889-3 • \$6.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-54008-7 • \$6.99

### World War II, Book One: The Right Fight

By Chris Lynch  
Fiction (first in a quartet), Ages 10 to 14  
HC: 978-0-545-52294-6 • \$17.99  
(January 2014)

### World War II: Fighting for Freedom

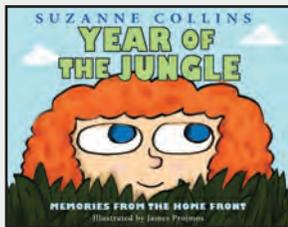
By Peter Chrisp  
Nonfiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-24984-3 • \$12.99



## Discussion Questions

1. Choose a character from one of the fictional accounts of this war and describe how that person is changed by the events in the story. What expectations did that person have about the war experience? How did those expectations change? (CCSS.5-9.RL.3)
2. Read one of the nonfiction accounts of the war. How does the text inform your understanding of events in the war? (CCSS.5-9.RIT.3) How does the format and structure of the book help you to understand the places and events? (CCSS.5-9.RIT.5,7)

## World War II (continued)



3. Discuss the concept of courage as it is seen in both fiction and nonfiction accounts of the war. Compare acts of courage by soldiers in battle, prisoners in camps, animals in the war, and people on the home front in various countries. How is your reaction to a book affected by whether it is a first-person or third-person account; whether it is fiction or fact; whether it is a human or animal; or whether it is a soldier, prisoner, or citizen? (CCSS.5-9.RL.2 and CCSS.5-9.RL.6) (CCSS.5-9.RIT.6)

### YOUNG ADULT

**Dear Miss Breed**  
**True Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration During World War II and a Librarian Who Made a Difference**  
By Joanne Oppenheim  
Nonfiction, Ages 12 and up  
HC: 978-0-439-56992-7 • \$22.99

**Hitler's Secret**  
By William Osborne  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up  
HC: 978-0-545-49646-9 • \$17.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-57651-2 • \$17.99

**Invasion**  
By Walter Dean Myers  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up  
HC: 978-0-545-38428-5 • \$17.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-57659-8 • \$17.99  
(September 2013)

**The Nazi Hunters**  
By Neal Bascomb  
Nonfiction, Ages 12 and up  
HC: 978-0-545-43099-9 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-56239-3 • \$16.99  
(September 2013)

**Phantoms in the Snow**  
By Kathleen Benner Duble  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up  
HC: 978-0-545-19770-0 • \$17.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-33251-4 • \$17.99

### Discussion Questions

1. Each of these books describes one aspect of World War II. How do the fiction authors use historical settings and events to shape the development of the main character or the plot of the story? (CCSS.7-10.RL.3) How do the nonfiction authors create a compelling narrative using factual events? (CCSS.7-10.RIT.3)
2. Certain events and experiences during World War II were little known until many years after the war, e.g., the internment of Japanese Americans. Why did it take so many years for these stories to be told? (CCSS.7-10.RIT.1,2,3)
3. Describe how the concept of heroism appears in each of these titles. Who are the true heroes in each of these different aspects of the war and its aftermath? How does their heroism reveal itself in each setting? (CCSS.7-10.RL.1,2,9) (CCSS.7-10.RIT.1-3)

## The Vietnam War

"What is absurd and monstrous about war is that men who have no personal quarrel should be trained to murder one another in cold blood." —Aldous Huxley

### YOUNG READERS

**Year of the Jungle** (September 2013)  
By Suzanne Collins,  
illustrated by James Proimos  
Fiction picture book, Ages 4 and up  
HC: 978-0-545-42516-2 • \$17.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-62305-6 • \$17.99

### Discussion Questions

1. How is a family affected when one member has to leave home to fight in a war? How have modern communications helped families stay in touch during these long absences? How does a child's understanding of war develop as he or she grows older? Why does a family member who returns from a war sometimes feel like a stranger to his or her own family? (CCSS.1-4.RL.1,3,6)

## The Vietnam War (continued)

### MIDDLE GRADE

#### Greetings from Planet Earth

By Barbara Kerley  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
PB: 978-0-439-80204-8 • \$6.99

#### Into No Man's Land: The Journal of Patrick Seamus Flaherty, United States Marine Corps, Khe Sanh, Vietnam

By Ellen Emerson White  
Fiction, Ages 10 to 14  
PB: 978-0-545-39888-6 • \$6.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-50536-9 • \$6.99

#### Profiles #5: The Vietnam War

By Daniel Polansky  
Nonfiction, Ages 10 to 14  
PB: 978-0-545-48855-6 • \$6.99

#### Vietnam Quartet

By Chris Lynch  
Fiction • Ages 10 to 14

#### #1: I Pledge Allegiance

HC: 978-0-545-27029-8 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-38849-8 • \$16.99

#### #2: Sharpshooter

HC: 978-0-545-27026-7 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-44324-1 • \$16.99

#### #3: Free-Fire Zone

HC: 978-0-545-27025-0 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-47005-6 • \$16.99

#### #4: Casualties of War

HC: 978-0-545-27023-6 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-52024-9 • \$16.99

### Discussion Questions

1. Compare the motives, strengths, and weaknesses of each of the historic leaders involved in the Vietnam conflict. How did the actions of each escalate the war and increase the controversy about American involvement? (CCSS.6-9.RIT.1,3)
2. Discuss the concepts of honor, duty, allegiance, and heroism as they relate to the characters in these novels. How did the experience of war affect each of them? (CCSS.6-9.RL.1,2,3) Cite particular scenes in the books that support your comments. (CCSS.6-9.RL.5)
3. What are the effects on soldiers in the aftermath of a war? Were these problems more prevalent after the Vietnam War than in previous wars? (CCSS.6-9.RL.3)

### YOUNG ADULT

#### Fallen Angels

(A Coretta Scott King Award Winner)  
By Walter Dean Myers  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up  
PB: 978-0-545-05576-5 • \$6.99

#### All the Broken Pieces

By Ann E. Burg  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up  
PB: 978-0-545-08093-4 • \$6.99  
HC: 978-0-54508092-7 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-39221-1 • \$6.99

### Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the experiences of Richie Perry in *Fallen Angels*, his expectations about the war, and the reality of his experience in Vietnam. How does reading this book inform your understanding of the complexities of war and its aftereffects? (CCSS.7-12.RL.1,3,5)

## The Iraq and Afghanistan Wars

“War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other’s children.”

—Jimmy Carter, Nobel Lecture, Dec. 10, 2002

### MIDDLE GRADE

#### Operation Yes

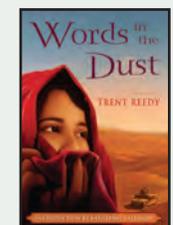
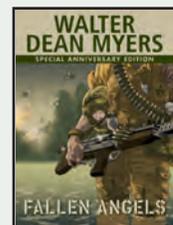
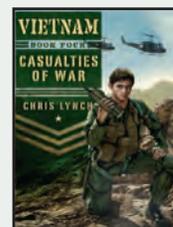
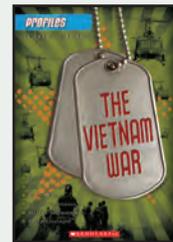
By Sara Lewis Holmes  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-10795-2 • \$16.99  
PB: 978-0-545-10796-9 • \$6.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-28373-1 • \$6.99

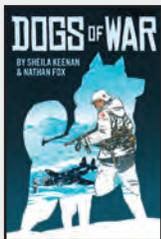
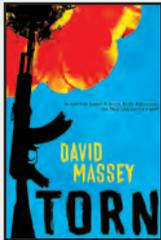
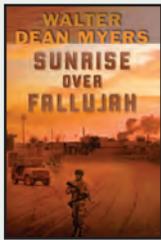
#### Words in the Dust

(Christopher Award Winner)  
By Trent Reedy  
Fiction, Ages 10 to 14  
HC: 978-0-545-26125-8 • \$17.99  
PB: 978-0-545-26126-5 • \$6.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-57806-6 • \$6.99  
Also available in Audiobook

### Discussion Questions

1. How do the characters in *Operation Yes* cope with emotions of anger, sorrow, worry, and fear of the unknown? In what way does storytelling and improvisation help the students and their teacher deal with these emotions? How does a distant war affect those on the home front? (CCSS.4-6.RL.1,3,6)





## The Iraq and Afghanistan Wars (continued)

- How does the arrival of Americans in her village provide hope for an Afghan girl in *Words in the Dust*? How can Zulaikha resolve her conflict between traditional family values and a hope for a better future? (CCSS.5-9.RL.2,3,6)

### YOUNG ADULT

#### Sunrise Over Fallujah

By Walter Dean Myers  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up  
HC: 978-0-439-91624-0 • \$17.99  
PB: 978-0-439-91625-7 • \$7.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-23202-9 • \$7.99

#### Torn

By David Massey  
Fiction, Ages 14 and up  
HC: 978-0-545-49645-2 • \$17.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-52378-3 • \$17.99

### Discussion Questions

- Discuss the changing roles of women in the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as they are portrayed in these two novels. What qualities do women contribute to the war experience? What difficulties do they encounter? (CCSS.7-12.RL.1,3,5)
- What particular challenges face soldiers in these two wars? How do the culture, climate, and terrain of Iraq and Afghanistan affect the way these wars are fought? Discuss the concept of “nation building” and what it means for the soldiers faced with challenging situations in each of these countries. (CCSS.7-12.RL.2,4,5,6)

## General/Other

“I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its stupidity.” —Dwight D. Eisenhower

### MIDDLE GRADE

#### Dogs of War

By Sheila Keenan and Nathan Fox  
Fiction graphic novel (World War I, World War II, Vietnam War), Ages 8 to 12  
HC: 978-0-545-12887-2 • \$22.99  
PB: 978-0-545-12888-9 • \$12.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-45662-3 • \$12.99

#### Dog Tags series

By C. Alexander London  
Fiction, Ages 10 to 14

#### #2: Strays

(Vietnam)  
PB: 978-0-545-47705-5 • \$5.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-57643-7 • \$5.99

#### #1: Semper Fido

(Afghanistan)  
PB: 978-0-545-47704-8 • \$5.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-53924-1 • \$5.99

#### #3: Prisoner of War

(World War II)  
PB: 978-0-545-47706-2 • \$5.99  
(January 2014)

### Discussion Questions

- Discuss the use of animals in wartime and their importance in saving human lives. Compare the interaction of the dogs and their trainers in these books to the use of horses in World War I in *War Horse*. (CCSS.4-7.RL.1,6)

### YOUNG ADULT

#### An Innocent Soldier

(Batchelder Award Winner)  
By Josef Holub  
Fiction (Napoleonic War), Ages 12 and up  
HC: 978-0-439-62771-9 • \$16.99  
EBK: 978-0-545-35569-8 • \$6.99

### Discussion Questions

- Sharing the horrors of war can create an intensity of friendship among those who might not have encountered each other in peacetime. Discuss the theme of friendship in this story and its importance to the two main characters as they endure the extreme hardships of war. (CCSS.7-10.RL.2,3,6)

# War in Fiction and Fantasy

“War must be, while we defend our lives against a destroyer who would devour all; but I do not love the bright sword for its sharpness, nor the arrow for its swiftness, nor the warrior for his glory. I love only that which they defend.” —J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Two Towers*

## MIDDLE GRADE

**The Ascendance Trilogy**  
(*The False Prince*, *The Runaway King*)  
By Jennifer A. Nielsen  
Fiction, Ages 10 to 14

**The Guardians of Ga'Hoole series**  
By Kathryn Lasky  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12

**The Underland Chronicles**  
(*Gregor the Overlander*, *Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane*, *Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods*, *Gregor and the Marks of Secret*, *Gregor and the Code of Claw*)  
By Suzanne Collins  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12

**Wolves of the Beyond series**  
By Kathryn Lasky  
Fiction, Ages 8 to 12

## Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the techniques a writer uses to create a believable fantasy world. What details and descriptions help you to imagine the setting in these books? Compare them to other fantasy worlds you have read about, such as the wizard world in the Harry Potter books. (CCSS.4-7.RL.3,4)
2. Fantasy tales often involve a quest or a journey the characters must take and a struggle between forces of good and evil. Compare the journeys and struggles in these fantasy books with the journeys and struggles of characters in realistic novels about war. (CCSS.4-7.RL.2,9)

## YOUNG ADULT

**Defy**  
By Sara B. Larson  
HC: 978-0-545-59758-6 • \$17.99  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up  
(January 2014)

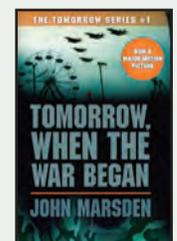
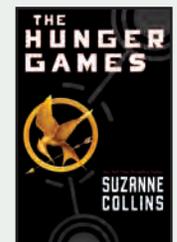
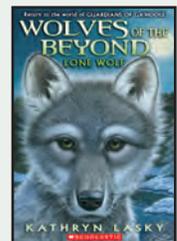
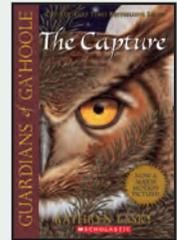
**Divided We Fall**  
(First in a trilogy)  
By Trent Reedy  
HC: 978-0-545-54367-5 • \$17.99  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up  
(January 2014)

**The Hunger Games Trilogy**  
(*The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, *Mockingjay*)  
By Suzanne Collins  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up

**The Tomorrow series**  
By John Marsden  
Fiction, Ages 12 and up

## Discussion Questions

1. Whether set in an indefinite past or a chilling future world, fantasy can often highlight themes of war and peace, conflict and resolution, good and evil, with more clarity than a realistic story. What deeper themes do each of these novels develop and how do the characters reflect those themes? (CCSS.7-12.RL.1,2,3)
2. Compare the imagined world of a fantasy novel to the setting of a realistic novel about war. (CCSS.7-12.RL.9)
3. Suzanne Collins has stated that her inspiration for *The Hunger Games* series came from channel-flipping between reality TV and Iraq War coverage in the news. Discuss how a work of fantasy and imagination can reflect issues in the real world of current events and current trends in entertainment. (CCSS.7-12.RL.4,7,9)





The books in this guide are available wherever books are sold.

Prices and availability are subject to change without notice.

Discussion questions written by Connie Rockman, Youth Literature Consultant, adjunct professor of children's and young adult literature, and Editor of the 8th, 9th, and 10th books in the Junior Authors and Illustrators series.



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