



The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War

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First-hand accounts that include diary entries and personal letters describe the experiences of boys, sixteen years old or younger, who fought in the Civil War.

The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War Details

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From Reader Review The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War for online ebook

Sam says

this is the first book I ever remember reading about the Civil War. The book is mostly pictures of young boys who fought in the Civil War. Some of the pictures are very graphic and I identified with the boys in those pictures. I have been fascinated with the Civil War ever since.

Jill says

I absolutely loved this book!

While the subject content was a bit disturbing (who really wants to know that young boys were soldiers and how they died horrible deaths), the book itself was very interesting. It explained some of the lesser known facts of war, such as the drummers were often killed to slow the advancing opposition, as well as the color of a uniform helped decide the Battle of Bull Run.

I appreciated that the author made note of the "changes" that occur in each soldier. War itself can change anyone, but the Civil War was especially tough on the young boys who lied about their age when enlisting so young. The imagery is so vivid, I felt like I was really there and had actually seen Lieutenant Lantry and his head wounds. I also wasn't aware that prison camps were utilized back then. This book emphasizes how big they really were and how many men died in them.

This book had gruesome pictures of young, dead soldiers, so reader beware. I found the text interesting, as something we should know about our past.

Rosy says

It was really interesting to see the Civil War from the point of view of boys who participated in it. I also think it's crazy how they were so brave to be engaged in such a bloody part of our history. It's good that today this does not happen anymore.

Jane says

Thanks to the boys who wrote letters to home and the families who kept them, this author could tell their story. As a nurse scientist who uses qualitative methods, this book reads like the letters were gathered and from them the themes emerged and these became chapters. I listened to this book and the narrator's voice was perfect for the story. I didn't understand role of drummers, questioning because so many images from the Civil War have drummers. This was explained in the book. The book also provided added insights and understanding that had eluded me since studying American history.

Roxie Lacey says

Interesting and informative. Pictures and personal accounts of civil war battles and life in the war as told by soldiers 16 and under.

Rusty says

Some sources emphasize that those who fought in the Civil War were eighteen or older but that is not true. In the chaos that ensued when both sides realized that war was coming, many under age boys became part of their armies. Boys as young as twelve signed up. Often they were tall or big for their age but some were brought by their fathers who vouched for them. Yet neither side was prepared for the conflict and the first year was a learning experience. Boys who sought adventure found themselves facing death and dismemberment.

The author uses numerous quotes from many of the young soldiers to illustrate their experiences. Even the the dust cover features a photo of a young hero named Johnny Clem who became referred to as Johnny Shiloh. From battles to imprisonment to tramping through fields of dead comrades boys grew up quickly. Boys who joined the war effort had to prove their worth. Their youth and inexperience placed them at a disadvantage with their older more mature comrades. Indeed, one of the first deaths in one regiment was the death of a boy who stood up to an older soldier. Interesting and quick read that gives another insight into our past.

Shawn Thrasher says

Not as interesting as I thought it was going to be. As a book about soldier's lives, I thought it was moderately interesting, but I didn't feel like the book captured the lives of boy soldiers. Jim Murphy is a great author, and this was really well written - but the subject matter just went astray.

Travis Starnes says

(Written by my son)

The Boys' War by Jim Murphy is an interesting book. Its perspective of the Civil War is different from any other book about the conflict. In most books, you'll probably find some historian with lots of facts and statistics giving you a bystander's point of view. The Boys' War however will put you in the action and still have factual information you expect from a history book. More importantly it shows you the war from the perspective of boys who were involved.

There are a few things that aren't so great though. The cover could really use some work. It is very plain and doesn't seem to fit the events in the book. Also, like one of my writing teachers once said, "I like how when he decided it would be crazy, he made it all the way crazy", meaning there are points when he should have

not done quite as much. For instance the book needs focus less on the small details, like how uniforms would get mixed up. Then again, nothing is perfect.

I personally like reading about the civil war and the assassination of Lincoln, so this book was a good choice for me. It's a quick read that you could probably finish in a day if you wanted to. It can sometimes be a bit graphic and there is a fair bit of action, but mainly the book is about what daily life was like in the war. You might enjoy it if you like historical fiction and especially if you are a kid.

Mary Raccuia says

The nonfiction book tells the story of the civil war. The reader learns how and why many of the boys enlisted in war, the conditions, being homesick, and the injuries they faced. This book is great to use for factual information when researching for a project/paper about the civil war. It is also a powerful way to illustrate that war is not a glamorous topic. Not very exciting, but filled with good honest facts.

Laura says

I have never read about the Civil War in such a basic and simplistic way before. This is a sad, but true book about the boys who fought in the Civil War. Some were as young as 10 years old! I have a ten year old and I can't imagine him not only witnessing what these boys saw, but being part of it as well. Most of these boys had a naive fantasy of what war was until they saw first hand the realities of what war was really all about. This is a good read for all the boys out there that share the same naive fantasies to help them understand the truth of what it really is like to fight and kill in a war.

Gary Butler says

16th book read in 2017.

Number 301 out of 581 on my all time book list.

Monique says

Okay so its been a minute and just getting time to review this book I read as I support a really awesome 5th grade ELA and Social Studies teacher and I like to stay abreast on what they are reading and lo and behold they are getting into one of my admittedly morbid but fascinating favorite time periods in history which is the Civil War..I know I know being African American and a woman at that this time period would have been hellish for me and my ancestors but the lead in, the actual war and the post reconstruction period has always intrigued me, I know it is a tragic and catastrophic time in history pitting brother against brother and a nation against itself and for all these reasons I have always been interested in learning more about it, so I read about it any chance I get and this book dealt with boys who snuck through the age requirement to join the war for what they felt would be an exciting time. I really appreciated the layout of this book taking us from reasons why a twelve year old would join the war, their experiences (activities, diet, emotions), and what could and

may have happened to them in this bloody and fast moving war. Hearing about details such as ammunition, uniforms, rations, and daily troubles was very interesting and I think one of my favorite little known facts had to do with drummers as before I assumed it was a position that would be the first to be eliminated in the hierarchy of importance but I learned just how vital they were in a battle for calling of commands and just showing and sounding out where your troop is; I also learned that the Civil War was the last war that drummers were used in, I also as always stagger at the death statistics and the massive amount of wounded and injured soldiers and wonder at the stories of the men who gave their life for what they believed in for that hard four years..I am grateful to hear the stories from some of the youngest fighters and think my 5th graders will really get a lot from this work full of rich pictures, description and easy to read language depicting the realities of the war that changed America forever....fascinating and very well written..Recommended.

Emily says

This is was a interesting book because it's talking about young boys that went to war in the Civil War. It's filled with stories about experiences boys went through throughout the war. Many boys became soldiers, but others got to become a drumming boy. Being a drummer boy was the most dangerous job on the battle field. Being a drummer boy helps keep the soldiers marching steady and at a good pace. The youngest boy that was in the war was 12 years old. The book tells you how they survived the war, what they lived in, what they eat, and how the war changed the lives of the boy that were in it. I would recommend this book to people who want to know about the past and who wants to learn about it.

Randal Burd says

This is a superficial but enjoyable Civil War nonfiction book which integrates a lot of first-hand accounts of underage soldiers and drummer boys.

Skylar says

This was the best Civil War juvenile book I have read, and believe me, I have read many. The author goes into the subject in a way that a child could understand if they needed to read the book for a school project etc.. I found myself hooked into this book on the first sentence. The pictures added alot to the book and I thought the direct quotes from the soldier's diaries was great. This was a great book that even the youngest of children interested in this war could enjoy. There is violence in it, but as always, It can't be a Civil War book if there isn't any.

Amber says

This was such an amazing book. It was about the Civil War seen through the eyes of the thousands of young boys who fought in it. There are dozens of pictures and true accounts presented in this book. It was so interesting. My 8th grade son was reading it for his history class and I picked it up and read it.

Sarah says

This book was fascinating, it would be an excellent resources for a student writing a report on the Civil War. It recounts the stories and lives of the young men, boys, that fought in the Civil War on both sides. Consequently you have a very balanced view of what the war was like and the consequences it had on everyone involved. There are lots of photographs and quotes from letters and diaries of the young soldiers.

Susan Honthumb says

sad, but informative. Maybe someone will check it out of my little free library.

Donna Davis says

Heartbreaking but remarkably useful for such a thin volume. There are lots of historical documents. For those who are teaching at the middle or high school level, the Civil War lends itself better to visual images, because it was the first war in which photography was present; thus, there are battlefield photographs, photographs of layers of keloid scars on the black of a former slave...of course, it also depends upon how squeamish you and/or your audience are, but I don't know a gentle way to approach the Civil War and still teach it well. This should not be one's only source, but it is a great addition or introduction.

Jennifer Nanek says

This was an interesting quick read about boys...literally boys ages 10-16 going off to fight in the Civil War both for the North and South. The book shares diary entries from these kids about their experiences in the war. Many of these sign up to escape the boredom of home and have an exciting adventure..and at some begin to miss home terribly. Was amazed by their courage. This is a quick read.
