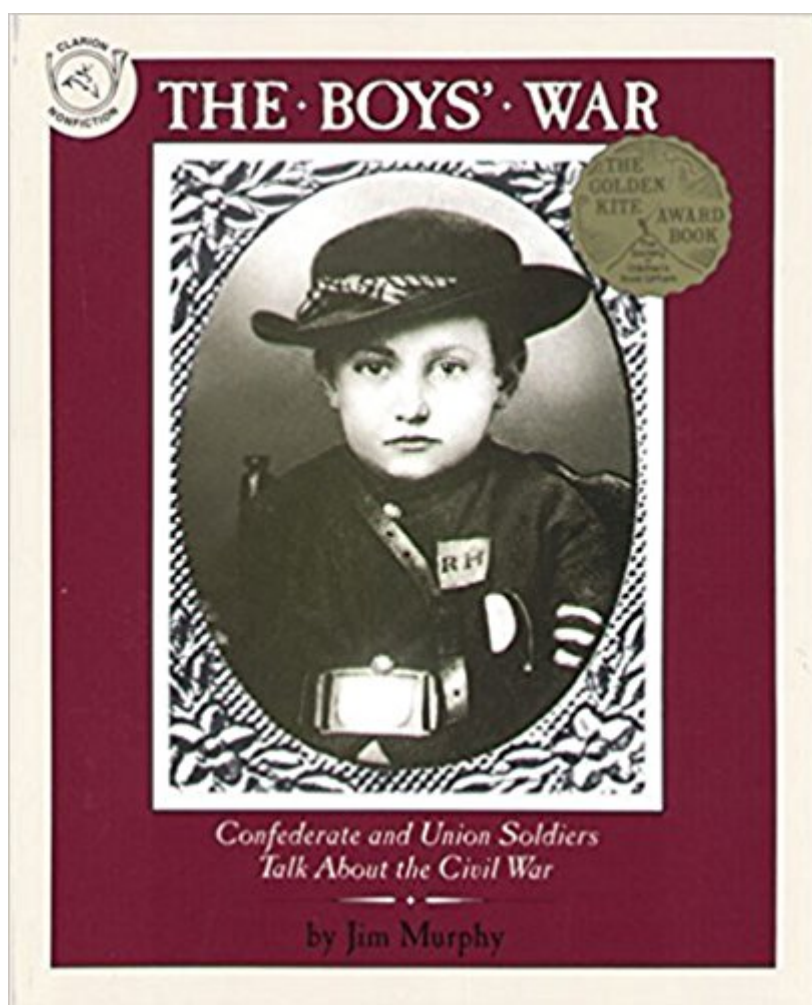


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The Boys' War: Confederate And Union Soldiers Talk About The Civil War



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

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Customer Reviews

From first chapter ("So I Became a Soldier") to last ("We're Going Home"), this wrenching look at our nation's bloodiest conflict through the eyes of its youthful participants serves up history both heartbreaking and enlightening. Ages 8-12. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 6 Up-- Making extensive use of the actual words--culled from diaries, journals, memoirs, and letters--of boys who served in the Union and Confederate armies as fighting soldiers as well as drummers, buglers, and telegraphers, Murphy describes the beginnings of the Civil War and goes on to delineate the military role of the underage soldiers and their life in the camps and field bivouacs. Also included is a description of the boys' return home and the effects upon them of their wartime experiences. Boys 16 years and younger, Murphy states, made up perhaps as much as 10-20 percent of the total number of soldiers who served in the Civil War. Little did these boys realize that they would become like young Pvt. Henry Graves, who was able to " 'look on the carcass of a man with pretty much such feeling as I would do were it a horse or hog.' " Private Henry and his contemporaries were direct and simple in their observations and possessed, says Murphy, "an eye for everyday details." Their accounts bring to life, as no other versions can, the Civil War and all of its glories and horrors. An excellent selection of more than 45 sepia-toned

contemporary photographs augment the text of this informative, moving work. --David A. Lindsey, Lakewood Junior/Senior High School, WA
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Very readable account of the service of boys on both sides of the war. Lots of interesting photos. Technically a book for young adults, but it does contain some very shocking and sad photos of dead soldiers. Children have always fought in wars, but I think the American Civil War was perhaps one of the first times that people were developing a sensitivity to the idea. Certainly the ancient Romans and Greeks thought that a ten-year-old was plenty old enough for service. We forget, I think, that the concept of childhood--that children are not just short, untrained adults, is relatively new. In some parts of the world, this is still the case. These children fought with honor and bravery and their stories should not be forgotten.

My Great Granddad went into the civil war at age 15 with two brothers and a cousin. One brother and the cousin were killed in battle. The other brother was wounded and my GGdad got out after 3 yrs at age 18
This book is superb ---- exceptional... Somewhat of a tear jerker at times.

Enjoyed reading this brief overview of young recruits lives (12 to 16 years old) that participated in the American Civil War. It's very readable and makes you wish the author would write a longer and more detailed version. My 6th grader and High School freshman both enjoyed the information it covered. We've given away a copy of the book to a Civil War reenactor friend who works with young Cadets in his unit.

I really appreciate this book. It will work well in the classroom as I teach Across Five Aprils. Once again Jim Murphy has brought primary sources to readers in a way that is both engaging and informative. The book is an excellent way to present the young ages of the Civil War fighting "men" to students. The only reason I didn't give it five stars is because I would have liked to see the sources more completely documented. If I tried to have my students find the sources of each young soldiers writing, I'm not sure they (or I) could do it.

For older children, this is a great book to bring the conditions of the USA right before the Civil War, and then the war itself, to life. The language is often first-person, and the family situations described really resonated with our 9 year old - almost too much, in fact, because he had some anxious

questions about 12 year olds going to war. Relieved to find that many were in the drum corps and other non-fighting units, this gave my son much food for thought/conversation as we read it together. (Note: Younger children might find the stories scary.)

An absolutely excellent book, but also one of the saddest books I have ever read. It was a great history lesson reading *The Boy's War*, I learned so much that I was not aware of. I didn't realize that many of the boy's in the book went to war mainly for the money. I also had no idea that there were so many kids in the war. Twelve, thirteen, and fourteen is still a kid going off to war. To be honest, I skipped much of the chapter Prison Bars and the Surgeon's Saw. That was a bit too graphic for me. A great book about a terrible wound in the United States that happened not all that long ago.

Tremendous book on so many levels. I learned a lot more about the civil war than I ever learned in the classroom. Lots of pictures. I knew there were young boys in the armies on both sides just not the thousands upon thousands that there was. It is well worth your time to read this jewel of a book.

This book piqued the interest of my 13-year old grandson who just doesn't want to read!

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