

War Term Three, 2002

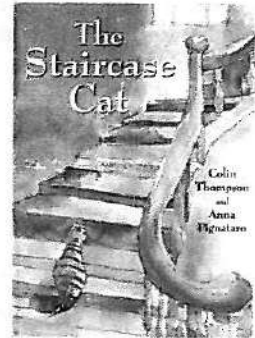
Contributors to this booklist are – Kerry Aluf, Carol Ardern, Helen Beckingsale, Anne Coppell, Lois Huston, Frances Plumpton, Rosemary Tisdall.

BOOKLIST

The Staircase Cat

Colin Thompson
Ill; Anna Pignataro
Hodder, 1998
Hb ISBN 07336 0582 6

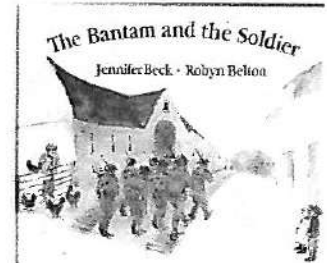
A simple, soulful story. An old cat living in a derelict house, reminisces about the happy prewar years, the coming of the soldiers, the emptying of the street's houses and soon, the arrival of the ghosts. Pignataro's subdued watercolours capture the essence of this story. The words and pictures quietly hint at the tragedy of war. 4-7yrs KA



The Bantam and the Soldier

Jennifer Beck
Ill; Robyn Belton
Scholastic, New Zealand, 1996.
ISBN 1 86943 155 3

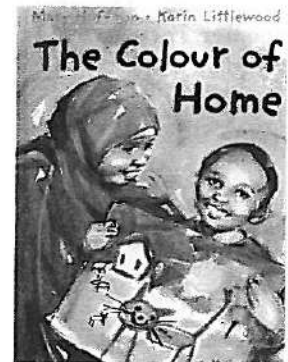
A delightful picture book of a soldier at war who befriends a hen. As he struggles to survive in the trenches the hen's daily egg keeps the soldier's spirits up as well as providing good nutrition. The end papers are well worth studying as they contain an image of a real postcard sent by the author's mother's uncle as he fought in the war in France. This forms the basis of the story, giving a moving account of the tragic loss that war brings. For ages 5 to 12 although many older children and adults will enjoy this book. RT.



The Colour of Home

Mary Hoffman
Ill; Karin Littlewood
Frances Lincoln 2002
Hb ISBN 0 7112 19400

Hassan, a small refugee boy from Somalia is now in Britain. This picture book powerfully portrays his responses to his experiences. At school he does a painting in clear strong colours which is admired by the teacher. He then proceeds to add splashes of red, slashes of black and grey smudges. Talking about his painting through an interpreter unlocks so much to help both the boy and the teacher. The next day sees Hassan paint another picture to brighten the drabness of his new home, and want to learn the word for home. A meaningful book that sensitively addresses the isolation of refugees. Warmly recommended for 6 – 10 yr olds. CA



No Gun for Asmir
Christobel Mattingley
Puffin 1993

ISBN 0-14-036729-2

Asmir discovers first hand what it is to be a refugee. He is forced to leave his home in Sarajevo with his mother, brother and grandmother. His new life in Vienna could not have happened without the help of friends and he soon settles into a new way of life - but he lives with the constant worry of his father left behind in war torn Sarajevo. A story from the perspective of the emotional toll that war brings. Sequel is Asmir in Vienna. Ages 8 - 10 years. RT

War Boy

Michael Foreman
Puffin 1991

ISBN 0-14-034299-0

A close-up and readable account of Michael Foreman's childhood years in England as the war happened around him. The accompanying pictures help bring the text to life, creating a real sense of what it must have been like. Ages 8 - 12. RT

Why?

Nikolai Popov
North-South Books, Inc, 1996.
ISBN 1 55858 996 1

A wordless picture book showing the senselessness of war. A frog is sitting peacefully in a meadow when a mouse, carrying an umbrella appears, and suddenly starts attacking him for no apparent reason. The confrontation turns into full-scale war. For ages 8 to adult. RT



Sami and the Time of the Troubles

Florence Parry Heide and Judith Heide Gilliland, illustrated by Ted Lewin
Clarion Books, 1992.
ISBN 0395559642

Sami lives in Beirut during the time of the troubles. Living in the basement hiding from the bombs and the guns, Sami remembers the good times and what life was like outside. His grandfather tells the family stories of the times before. Always there is hope, even in the bad times.

Recommended for ages 9+. AC.



Boy Overboard
Morris Gleitzman
Puffin 2002

ISBN Pb 014 130838 9

Morris Gleitzman has carefully crafted a poignant story that follows a family that flees Afganistan. He has skillfully applied his renowned light touch to the plight of refugees. The story is told in the first person by Jamal a young soccer enthusiast. On having the expression "Gone Overboard" explained to him, Jamal decides that "bold, wild, dangerous and daring" is just what must be done for his family to enjoy a safe life. His unorthodox sister Bibi adds an interesting dimension to the story. A thought provoking book about the refugee crisis. Warmly recommended for both boys and girls 9+. CA



Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes.

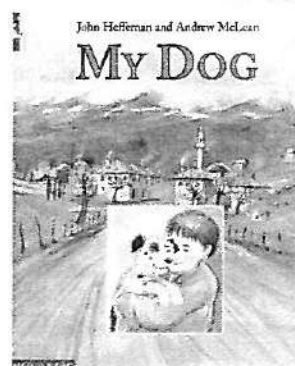
Eleanor Coerr
Puffin 1999
ISBN 0 698 11802 2

A young Japanese girl, Sadako, is struck down with leukemia as a result of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima nine years previously. She recalls a Japanese legend that suggests that if she folds one thousand paper cranes she will be healthy again. A moving story of courage and inspiration. This puffin edition has an attractive cover, black and white paintings by Ronald Himler, and includes the instructions for folding the origami cranes. Suitable for 9+. CA

Also available in both softcover and hardback as a hauntingly beautiful picture book. Eleanor Coerr has adapted her text, and the illustrations are by the acclaimed Ed Young.

Sadako

ISBN Hb 0947241 655
ISBN Pb 069811588 0



My Dog

John Heffernan
Ill; Andrew McLean
Scholastic 2001
ISBN 1876289 42 2

The title and cover illustration create a deceptive impression of the content of this book which is actually dealing with the serious issue of ethnic cleansing. The conflict lightly touches on Alija's life when he brings home a dog whose owner, an old man, has died while passing through the town with a group of refugees. Soon tensions develop within the village, leading to segregation and distrust amongst the townsfolk. Alija leaves with his mother and a long wait for his father to join him begins. A sophisticated picture book for older children. 9+. KA/CA

Friend or Foe

Michael Morpurgo
Egmont Books PB 2001
ISBN 0749746904

Two English boys, David and Tucky, are sent away from London to escape the bombing in World War II. One night when Mr. Reynolds is out on Home Guard duty and Mrs. Reynolds is in the village, the boys see a German bomber crash into the neighbouring moor. The army searches the area, but finds no trace. A week later the boys are exploring, when David slips crossing the river and is swept away. He is rescued by a German soldier, one of the two survivors from the plane crash. The boys face a difficult decision. Should they turn the airmen in, or help these enemies who have saved David's life?

Imaginatively written, this book touches both war and friendship, explores what happens when right is not always black and white. Suitable for Upper Primary/Intermediate. LH

Achtung! Pavlova

Stu Duvall
Reed PB 2002
ISBN 1869487346

Do not read this book if you want a historical account of World War II, because it is as accurate as a paper dart in a cyclone! Achtung! Pavlova is a humorous concoction of popular notions of Nazi Germany mixed with New Zealand cow-cocky humour. The story is that Hermann Goering, chief dessert connoisseur of the Third Reich, has ordered U-boat captain Otto Mattick to find the fabled pavlova in the far off country of New Zealand.

In a tale with ingredients as diverse as cream and cows, submarines and wetas, the citizens of Dynamite Bay successfully repel the German invaders. A fun read. Suitable for Upper Primary and above. LH



My Story: Battle of Britain, Harry Woods, England 1939-1941

Chris Priestley
Scholastic, 2002
ISBN 0439994233

Harry has always wanted to fly and joining the Volunteer Reserves of the RAF enables him to do so. When War is declared nineteen year old Harry is called up and trains to be a fighter pilot in his beloved Spitfire. As we now know, life as a fighter pilot was extremely tenuous and this is shown in the novel, but not overstated. Many interesting facts about life in wartime Britain are incorporated into the story. The Dunkirk expedition is shown from the RAF's point of view in that they were there, but were not seen by the soldiers. Harry matures beyond his years during the course of the War. Recommended for ages 10+. AC



The Man from the Other Side

Uri Orlev
Penguin 1995
PB ISBN 0 14 037088

Israeli writer, Uri Orlev's real life experiences as a Jewish boy surviving in the Warsaw ghetto serve as the basis for several of his novels. Marek, a Polish boy is 14 and helping his stepfather smuggle food through the sewers into the Warsaw ghetto. Sometimes they smuggle Jewish babies out.

Marek's conscience is pricked, while helping two boys rob an escaped Jew of his money. His mother now tells him the true identity of his late father. Marek wants to help a Jew and he comes to admire the young Jewish man that he brings to his grandparents to hide. Marek's knowledge of the sewers is needed when the young man insists on returning to the ghetto to fight with his friends in the imminent uprising. 10+. KA



The Island on Bird Street

Uri Orlev
Houghton Mifflin 1984
Pb ISBN 0 395 33887 5

A story of hope. Alex is left on his own in the Warsaw Ghetto after his father is transported. His father's last message that he would return for him – 'No matter if it takes a week, a month, or even a whole year', gives Alex the hope and will to survive alone in the ruined house on Bird Street. Through the upper windows, he observes the relatively normal lives led by the Polish people on the outside, where children still go to school. 10+. KA

Parvana

Deborah Ellis
Allen & Unwin 2002
ISBN 1-86508-694-0

Parvana lives in Afghanistan, under Taleban rule. When her father is taken to prison, she has to dress as a boy so she can go out into the streets to make a living in the marketplace of Kabul. She has to risk her life - she finds it scary, but she enjoys the challenge. This story gives an insight into the culture of Afghanistan. It is a fascinating and sobering look at the turmoil in our world, and how it affects the children of today. Ages 10 + RT/LH



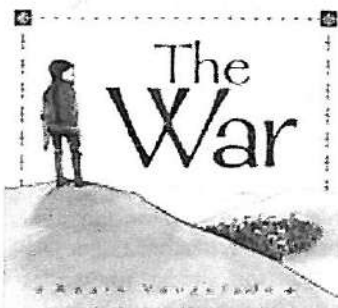
Passage to Freedom: the Sugihara Story

Ken Mochizuki, illustrated by Dom Lee, Afterword by Hiroki Sugihara Lee & Low Books Inc, New York, 1997

ISBN 1880000490

Based on a true story, told to the author by the boy in the story, this book tells of his father's struggle to save the lives of hundreds of Jewish people during World War Two. In 1940 Chiune Sugihara was a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania. On a July morning the family's lives changed forever when hundreds of Polish Jews stood outside their house, hoping for help. Against the wishes of the Japanese government and risking his, and his family's lives, Chiune wrote visas to save the refugees. In the afterword Hiroko Sugihara tells how this incident affected his father's career. In 1985 Chiune received the "Righteous Among Nations" Award from Yad Vashem. One person can make a difference.

Recommended for ages 10+. AC.



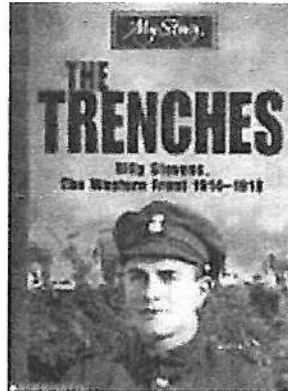
The War

Anaïs Vaugelade
Carolrhoda Books, Inc, 2001
(Translation, originally published in 1998 in French)
ISBN 1575055627

Two countries – the Reds and the Blues – have been at war for years, so long they've forgotten why it

started. The kings of both countries have a son. The two sons meet in a duel – Fabien, the Blue prince isn't interested in war but, in an accident, causes the death of Julius – prince of the Reds. Fabien is banished by his father for his actions and disinterest. On his own Fabien figures out a way to stop the war from continuing. An allegorical tale emphasising the value of wisdom.

Recommended for ages 10+. AC.



My Story: The Trenches, Billy Stevens, The Western Front 1914-1918

Jim Eldridge
Scholastic, 2002
ISBN 0439994225

Billy and his best friend, Rob, are thirteen when war is declared. Desperate to fight for King and Country they try to join up, but need to wait. The years pass, Billy is working as a trainee telegraph operator, when the 'white feathers' of cowardice begin to be handed out. Against their mothers' wishes Billy and Rob join up, lying about their ages. At seventeen they begin training, Rob in infantry, and Billy in Signals with the Engineers. The explanation at the beginning describing the path to war, and the afterword, doing the same, shed light on a confusing political climate. Recommended for ages 10+. AC



When the War Came Home
Sarah Ell

Scholastic 2002 PB
ISBN 1869435281

It is 1918. Jimmy Kavanagh is thirteen, and the man of the family. His father is at war, missing in action, and Jimmy helps support his mother, two brothers, three sisters and an uncle as a messenger boy. However, an unseen enemy has infiltrated war-time Auckland. Influenza. With no weapons to combat it, the disease spreads rapidly and hundreds die. The end of the war brings jubilation, but this is balanced by the horror of increasing deaths from the 'flu'.

Sarah Ell's book of postwar Auckland is filled with fascinating details. This is the other side of the war – the war at home – and gives a very good snapshot of ordinary people coping in their everyday way. A good satisfying read suitable for both girls and boys of Intermediate age and up. LH

Back Home

Michelle Magorian
Puffin PB 1987
ISBN 0140319077

Back Home, by the author of Goodnight Mister Tom, is another story of children affected by World War II. This time it is the tale of Rusty, a twelve-year-old girl who has been evacuated to America for the war years. The war is over, but England is in the grip of postwar depression. Rusty is back home, and she finds England very different from her American life. Rusty has to decide – will she fight for her own identity, or become the English girl she once was? Highly recommended. Suitable for Intermediate age and up, particularly girls. LH

POW

Martin Booth

Puffin 2000

PB ISBN 0141304219

POW by Martin Booth starts slowly, but suddenly erupts into tension and suspense. Ted Foley, a ship's boy, has been captured after his ship was torpedoed during World War I. He is incarcerated in Brandenburg, a POW camp in the centre of Germany. Nevertheless he still dreams of freedom and plans to escape.

Based on the experiences of his grandfather, Martin Booth writes POW with almost horrifying detail. The freezing temperatures, the deaths, the cold-blooded descriptions of efforts to kill or maim the enemy make this book gruesomely real. Not suitable for primary, but boys of intermediate age and above will find it very enjoyable. LH

Your Name is Renee

Stacy Cretzmeier

Oxford Univ. Press 1999

ISBN Hb 0 19 513259 9

The French Resistance helps a Jewish family to allude the Nazis. Their young daughter is renamed Renee and is hidden in a convent school during the occupation of France. The family is one of few who survive the holocaust. Based on a true story and seen through the eyes of a child, this is a moving story of both fear and hope.

12 +. CA

No Pretty Pictures

Anita Lobel

Greenwillow, 1998.

ISBN 0688159354.

Anita Lobel is best known for her picture book illustrations. What is not so well known is that she was a Jewish child who survived the holocaust. This is an account of her childhood experiences, looking after her younger brother and attempting to evade capture by the Germans - a time when there were no pretty pictures. 12+. HB.

Torn Thread

Anne Isaacs

Scholastic, 2000

ISBN 0590603639

Like many other holocaust novels this is based on actual experiences and tells the story of the author's mother-in-law who spent two years in a Nazi labour camp in Czechoslovakia. 12+.HB.

Sweet Clarinet

By James Riordan

Oxford University Press, 1999

ISBN 019275050X

Billy's a child of World War II, and loves seeing the bombs falling.

Until one falls in his bomb shelter - shattering his life and body.

Scarred in mind and body, music becomes his solace and his way into the outside world. A different look at life during the Blitz, looking at the damage done to the innocent. Recommended for ages 12+. AC.

When the Guns Fall Silent

James Riordan

Oxford University Press Inc, USA, 2001

ISBN 0192751638

During World War One best friends Jack and Harry join the Army and are sent to the front together. Many years later Jack takes his grandson to the war graves in France to try and answer the question "what did you do in the War, Grandad?" Also visiting the graves is a German soldier, with his granddaughter. Central to the story is that magical Christmas of 1914 when the guns on both sides of the trenches were silent and Christmas carols rang in the air of France, and the soldiers played soccer. Riordan incorporates the fact, not often explored in the tales of this event, that men from both sides were executed afterwards for fraternising with the enemy. Hard-hitting and powerful, this book is recommended for ages 12+. AC.

The Prisoner

Oxford University Press, 2001

ISBN 0192751263

Tom and Iris love watching the bombing during the Blitz and go hunting for souvenirs. But after one raid they find more than they'd planned - an injured German pilot.

When the air-raid sirens sound the children and pilot take shelter together. To keep the children's minds at ease the pilot, Martin, tells them stories. Martin then describes his experiences in Dresden during the firebombing by the British. Tom and Iris come to realise that the victims of war are not just the soldiers and that neither side is innocent. Devastatingly honest and realistic, this book is recommended for ages 12+. AC.

Dreaming in Black & White

Reinhardt Jung, translated by

Anthea Bell

Mammoth, 2000

ISBN 0749741570

This book is a rarity - it is translated from the German, with the author using German sources and it deals with life in Nazi Germany as a disabled child. The narrator dreams in black and white of life *back then*, when he was Hannes, a 'cripple', and his best friend was Hilde, a Jew. It is before the war, in the 1930s, when Nazi ideology was spreading throughout Germany. Like the classic novel and movie *The Wave*, this book explores how the ideology became so prevalent, allowing Hitler to instigate his 'Final Solution.' Recommended for ages 12+. AC.

Soldier X

Don L. Wulffson

Viking, 2001.

ISBN 067088863X

A devastating look at what life was like for German soldiers on the Russian Front during the last months of the Second World War. It is told in the first person by 16-year-old Erik Brandt, beginning with his train journey to the front as a translator. After being wounded he must impersonate a dead Russian in order to survive. The author states that the story is based on real life, with names changed. How do you stay true to your convictions while fighting for your life? Recommended for ages 12+. AC

After the War

Carol Matas
Simon & Schuster, 1996.
ISBN 0689803508

Despite surviving the war Ruth returns to a hostile reception in her home village in Poland. None of her family can be traced and Jewish people are still being attacked so she agrees to help escort a group of children to Palestine even though she sees no point in life and has no hope for the future. Gradually she regains her spirit and is able to help others recover from the ravages of their wartime experiences. Miraculously she encounters her one surviving brother on the ship to Palestine. This story begins where so many others have ended and looks at the hardship and privation still suffered by those who endured so much, the mental and psychological damage caused by their wartime experiences and the resilience of the human spirit. 12+. HB.



Letters from the Coffin-Trenches

Ken Catran
Random House, 2002
ISBN 1869415094, PB
Seventeen year old Harry and his friend Jessica are caught up in the romance of war, engineering Harry's escape from Christchurch to travel by train to Wellington, where he enlists in the Army. Harry's letters to Jessica, which begin on his train journey, and follow his journey with the ANZAC troops to the front, and Jessica's responses as she moves from schoolgirl to one of the nursing contingent at Alexandria, Egypt form the basis of the book. The letters change dramatically in

tone over the months, as Harry experiences the reality of army with his fellow soldiers as they are confined in the narrow deep trenches. And Jessica, in her turn, evolves from high-spirited teenager to a capable, compassionate nurse exposed to a multitude of horrors as she cares for the men invalided from the war. This readable book should give many teenagers a greater understanding of the experiences of young men and women in a conflict that resonates in the history of our nation. FP

Stones in Water

Donna Jo Napoli
Dutton Books 1997
ISBN 0525458425
Puffin 1999
ISBN 0141306009

We are reminded of the suffering on both sides during war in this account of German soldiers taking young Italian boys for forced labour despite the fact that Italy was their ally. Roberto attends an American movie with his Jewish friend Samuele and they are rounded up along with other teenage boys and taken to work in harsh conditions in a remote area. They must battle cold and hunger, and continually guard against the discovery that Samuele is Jewish. It is a story of loyalty between friends, and of survival against almost overwhelming circumstances as Roberto eventually escapes and lives to fight against his captors. 13+. HB.

Forgotten Fire

Adam Bagdasarian
Laurel Leaf, 2002
ISBN 0440229170

This book is based on the experiences of the author's great-uncle during the Armenian holocaust, 12 year old Vahan Kendarian was the son of a well respected, wealthy man. As he says at the beginning of the book, he assumed he would always have all he needed materially and emotionally. By the end of the book he has witnessed two of his brothers shot, his grandmother

murdered and his eldest sister dying from poison taken in preference to being raped by Turkish soldiers. Despite the horrific events he has to witness and his constant struggle to survive, he manages to escape to Constantinople. This is compelling reading and vividly portrays a little known episode in history which should not be forgotten. 13+. HB.

The Divine Wind

Gary Disher
Hodder Headline 1998, Sceptre edition 2001
ISBN 0733612911

Set in Australia in World War II this is one of numerous examples of the suspicion and hostility suffered by those treated as aliens because of their nationality, in countries they had come to regard as home. Broome is an isolated pearling town, south west of Darwin, and home to many Japanese divers and their families. Hart and Mitsy, the son of a pearling master and the daughter of a Japanese diver, fall in love but as Japan enters the war the town turns against its Japanese residents and Mitsy and her family are interned. There is hope of reconciliation at the end of the book but also uncertainty about the future and whether love can overcome adverse circumstances. 13+. HB.

A booklist 'Children & War' was published in CLA Voice Vol 6 Issue 2 and includes many of the classics of this genre i.e. Rose Blanche, Goodnight Mr Tom, The Silver Sword, When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit etc..

If you would like a copy of this list, please email childlitnz@internet.co.nz and the list will be sent to you as an attachment.