

# War

If you want intensity, you've come to the right place. A showcase for the best and worst that humanity has to offer, war books combine action, suspense and raw emotion like no other genre. They are philosophical, too. Conflict is a catalyst that forces characters to examine their fear of death and the reasons that they might—and might not—be willing to take another person's life.

Except for books by *Adele Geras (Trojan War)*, *Catherine Jinks (the Crusades)*, and *John Wilson (Romans vs. German "barbarians")* most of the titles on this booklist war deal with conflicts in the last few centuries. You will find books about the American Civil War (see *Gary Paulsen*), World War One ( see *Arthur Slade* and *John Wilson*), the Napoleonic wars (see *Josef Holub*), and of course World War II.

Some of the books deal with soldiers' experiences at the front (see *John Wilson* and *Dean Hughes*). Others deal with the physical and psychological scars borne by soldiers (see *Robert Cormier*), romance and war (see *Martha Attema*, *Gillian Chan* and *Adele Geras*), civilian resistance during World War Two (see *Martha Attema*), the ways in which families cope with horrendous events (*Carol Matas*), war-related jingoism and racism (see *Graham Salisbury*), and the question of loyalty (see *Martha Attema* and *Gary L. Blackwood*).

All but two of the books are about real conflicts. Set in the near future, **Tomorrow, When the War Began** by *John Marsden* explores the lives of seven teenagers who return from a trip in the bush to discover that their country has been invaded. In **Year of the Hangman**, *Gary Blackwood* reveals what might have happened if the Americans lost the Revolutionary War.

For a story about a haunted bomber in World War Two, read "Blackham's Wimpey" in *Robert Westall's* story collection **Break of Dark** (Y WES).

For science fiction about war, try **The New World Order** (Y JEA) by *Ben Jeapes*, which is about an extra-dimensional invasion during the English Civil War, or the books **1632** and **1633** (Y FLI) by *Eric Flint*, which describe what happens when a modern-day West Virginia town appears—as if by magic—in Germany during the Thirty Years War.

Y ATT

## **When the War Is Over**

by Martha Attema

Janke, a teenage girl in the Netherlands who fights with the resistance, finds herself falling for a German soldier. (2002)

Y BLA

## **Year of the Hangman**

by Gary L. Blackwood

In this alternate history, Blackwood imagines America in 1777 after the British win the Revolutionary War. Employed as a spy for the British, teenaged Creighton keeps tabs on escaped Revolutionary leaders such as Benjamin Franklin, who now runs a paper in Louisiana. Will Creighton remain loyal to the British, or side with the Americans, whom he respects and trusts? (2004)

Y CHA

**A Foreign Field**

by Gillian Chan

While growing up near a Canadian air base, 14-year-old Ellen Logan meets Stephen, a young British pilot training for battle. A gentle romance develops between the two, but what will happen when Stephen returns overseas to fly in combat? (2002)

Y COR

**Heroes**

by Robert Cormier

An unwilling hero, 18-year-old Francis Joseph Cassavant has just returned from World War Two after a grenade blew off his face. Now he has a gun and a mission: to murder his childhood hero. (1998)

Y CRA

**The Red Badge of Courage**

by Stephen Crane

Young Henry Fleming dreams of Civil War glory before the experience and aftermath of battle changes his outlook on war. *Look for this book in the Adult Collection.* (1984)

Y GER

**Troy**

by Adele Geras

During the Trojan War, teenaged Xanthe works as a healer in the “blood room,” where injured warriors are taken. She and her sister Marpessa, one of Helen’s servants, find themselves drawn into a complex tangle of romantic relationships during the long-running siege. Gods and mortals exist together in the ancient city in Geras’ version of the classic story. (2001) Followed by **Ithaka**. (2006)

Y HUG

**Soldier Boys**

by Dean Hughes

In this gripping story about soldiers on both sides of the battlefield, two 16-year-olds—Spencer, an American, and Dieter, a German—join the army because they are eager to fight. During the Battle of the Bulge, both boys discover war is about a lot more than proving yourself. (2001) Try **Search and Destroy** (2005) for Hughes’ take on the Vietnam War.

Y HOL

**An Innocent Soldier**

by Josef Holub

Teenaged Adam, a farm labourer, joins Napoleon’s Grand Armee in 1811, shortly before its disastrous invasion of Russia. He and an aristocratic officer help one another survive as the French retreat, pursued by merciless Cossack horsemen and ravaged by the winter cold. (2005)

Y JIN

**Pagan's Crusade**

by Catherine Jinks

Sixteen-year-old Pagan Kidrouk becomes a squire for the Knights Templar, who have helped to conquer the Holy Land during the Crusades. Given the task of escorting pilgrims to the River Jordan and back, Pagan and his master are unaware that Muslim armies under their great general, Saladin, are preparing to counter-attack. (2003) Followed by **Pagan in Exile**, **Pagan's Vows** and **Pagan's Scribe**.

Y LAW

**B for Buster**

by Iain Lawrence

Dreaming of wartime glory during World War Two, teenaged Kak leaves his home—and abusive father—in Canada's far north so that he can join the air force. But his dreams soon dissolve when he begins flying terrifying bombing missions over Germany. (2004)

Y MAR

**Tomorrow when the war began**

by John Marsden

One of the few books on this list that doesn't deal with a real conflict, this title tells the story of seven teenagers who, upon returning from a camping trip in the bush, realize their country has been invaded. Together, they try to evade and resist the occupying army, but in so doing they put their lives at risk. (1995) The first book in the Tomorrow series, followed by **The Dead of the Night**, **A Killing Frost**, **Darkness Be My Friend**, **Burning for Revenge**, **The Night is for Hunting** and **The Other Side of Dawn**.

Y MAT

**In My Enemy's House**

by Carol Matas

A teenage girl pretends not to be Jewish so she can work for a German family—and save herself from persecution—during World War Two.

Y MAY

**One Chance**

by Steve May

In wartime France, Jaq is on the run from soldiers and villagers alike ... until he meets a girl named Lise. Can she save him? (2004)

Y MYE

**Sunrise over Fallujah**

by Walter Dean Myers

The army sends Robin Perry, an 18-year-old soldier from Harlem, to Iraq during the war in 2003. The job of his unit: to befriend Iraqi people in unstable areas where enemies could strike at any time. (2008)

Y NAP

by Donna Jo Napoli

**Fire in the Hills**

Fourteen-year-old Roberto joins the resistance in Italy, fighting against its Nazi occupiers. (2006)

Y PAU

by Gary Paulsen

**Soldier's Heart : A Novel of the Civil War**

Initially eager to enlist, 15 year old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical and mental anguish of Civil War combat. (1998)

Y RYL

by Cynthia Rylant

**I Had Seen Castles**

Fifty years after World War Two, John Dante is haunted by memories of the war, of his family and of Ginny Burton—the girl he loved—a pacifist who opposed John's enlistment. (2004)

Y SAL

**Eyes of the Emperor**

by Graham Salisbury

A 16-year-old Japanese American, Eddy joins the army after the attack on Pearl Harbor, but encounters unexpected racism and hostility. The army gives Eddy and his Japanese Canadian friends humiliating, dangerous tasks such as acting as bait for attack-dogs-in-training. (2005)

Y SLA

**Megiddo's Shadow**

by Arthur Slade

Hoping to avenge his brother's death in World War I, 16-year-old Edward joins the army and is sent to Palestine where he fights on horseback and learns harsh lessons about war. (2006)

Y WIL

**And in the Morning**

by John Wilson

After his father dies in World War One, 16-year-old Jim Hay enlists in the British infantry, prepared to win glory. Instead, he learns about the horrors and drudgery of the Western Front while serving in the trenches, going on patrol and participating in horrific engagements such as the Battle of the Somme. (2003) If you're interested in ancient conflict, try Wilson's **Germania** (2008), about a battle between Roman legions and German "barbarians" almost two thousand years ago.

Y ZIN

**The Gadget**

by Paul Zindel

In 1945, Stephen and his father leave war-torn England for Los Alamos, the U.S. army's top secret military base. With Stephen's father working on a hush-hush new weapon, Stephen finds himself caught in a dangerous web of lies and intrigue. (2001)

## TRUE ACCOUNTS OF WAR

Y 810.8035 WAR

### **War Is**

People who have been involved in or affected by war explain what it meant to them, in their own words. (2008)

Y 943.086 AYE

### **Parallel Journeys**

by Eleanor H. Ayer

Read about Eleanor Ayer, a Jewish girl who hid in the Netherlands before being arrested and sent to Auschwitz, and Alfons, a Nazi boy who became a commander at age 16. This two-pronged tale demonstrates Hitler's influence on German youth. (2000)

Y 940.5318 WEA

### **We Are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust**

by Jacob Boas

The history of the Holocaust unfolds through the diaries of five Jewish teenagers. (1995)

949.7024 FIL

### **Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo**

by Zlata Filipovic

From 1991 through 1993, Zlata Filipovic led an idyllic life full of piano lessons and parties. After the Bosnian War came to her doorstep, she learned the meaning of hardship, as friends died, food disappeared and artillery shelled her neighbourhood. (1994)

940.5318 FRA

### **Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl**

by Anne Frank

This classic journal of a Jewish girl in her early teens describes both the joys and torments of daily life and typical adolescent thoughts, throughout two years spent in hiding with her family during the Nazi occupation of Holland. (1953)

Y 940.5318 RAB

### **Thanks to My Mother**

by Schoschana Rabinovici

After struggling to survive in Nazi-occupied Lithuania, a young Jewish girl and her mother endure much suffering in 3 different concentration camps and on an eleven-day death march before being liberated by the Russian army. (1998)

Y 949.703 SAC

by Joe Sacco

**Safe Area Gorazde : The War in Eastern Bosnia, 1992-1995**

From a United Nations safe haven in Bosnia, comics journalist Sacco tells the stories of soldiers and ordinary folk displaced by the war in the early 1990s. Their harrowing tales describe mass executions, forced marches across mountains, and attacks by people who had been friendly neighbours mere hours before. An extraordinary book, **Safe Area Gorazde** makes for unsettling reading. (2001) In **Palestine** (Y 956.9405 SAC), Sacco visits the unsettled Middle East, where an uneasy peace between Israel and Palestine periodically explodes into violence. (2001)

Y 940.5318 SEN

**The Cage**

by Ruth Minsky Sender

A teenage girl recounts the suffering and persecution of her family under the Nazis, in a Polish ghetto, during deportation and in a concentration camp. Sequel is *To Life*. (1997)

Y 940.5318 TIT

**Liberation : Teens in the Concentration Camps and the Teen Soldiers Who Liberated Them**

by E. Tina Tito,

Tito tells the stories of two survivors of concentration camps and two American soldiers who helped to liberate them. (1999)

Y 956.7044 WIL

**Spare Parts : A Marine Reservist's Journey from Campus to Combat in 38 Days**

by Buzz Williams

Following in his older brother's footsteps, Williams joined the United States Marine Corps in time to participate in the first Gulf War. In this candid memoir, he recounts his experiences of desert combat, as well as observations about the men he fought alongside and against. (2004)

## **A note on finding books ...**

Young Adult fiction is filed from A to Z under the first three letters of the author's LAST NAME. To find Paul Zindel's **The Gadet**, you would need to look for the letters ZIN near the end of the Y (short for Young Adult) fiction area.

All fiction books (and a few non-fiction books) that are less than a year old go in the **new books** area, which is marked by a sign. At Poirier Library, **graphic novels** are on a shelving unit in the corner of the Young Adult area. At City Centre Library, the graphic novels are underneath the teen magazines, just to the left of the new books.

Collections of **short stories**—themed around a certain topic (ghost stories) or by a particular author—are filed just after the Z authors.

If a Young Adult book you want ISN'T ON THE SHELF, try looking on the **paperback spinners** in the Young Adult area. Most of the paperbacks are filed under the first letter of the author's

LAST NAME. For Tamora Pierce books, you would look for P. Signs on top of the paperback racks tell you which author letters are in each spinner.

**Books on the paperback spinners do not appear in the online catalogue. In other words, you cannot find them on the computer. So when the computer says a book is out, it means just the copies it knows about. You might still find it on the paperback spinners.**

Note that the paperback racks include special categories, such as **series books** (Sweet Valley High, Dragonlance, Cirque Du Freak), **mysteries**, **science fiction** and **classics** by authors such as Jane Austen and Charles Dickens. Look for the headings above each spinner to make sure you're looking in the right place.

If you have any trouble finding a book, please consult a librarian at the reference desk. They are happy to help you.

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