






Book Backdrops: Connecting Literature and Primary Sources

| <p>Cover Image</p>  | <p>Title: <i>War Game</i></p> <p>Author: Michael Foreman</p> <p>Grade Level(s): YA</p> <p>Topic/Theme: Four friends join the British Army in 1914 in patriotic fervor. The horror of war is made real to them, and then softened by a Christmas Eve truce with their enemy. Based on a true story.</p> | <p>Book Type: Novel/Historical Fiction</p> <p>Setting and Time Period: World War I (1914-1918)</p> <p>Subjects: World War I; patriotism; soccer</p> |
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| Primary Source Thumbnail | Caption Publication Information Book Notes | URL |
|  | <p>Title: Your king & country need you to maintain the honour and glory of the British Empire</p> <p>Creator(s): Wood, Lawson, 1878-1957, artist</p> <p>Date Created/Published: London : Parliament Recruiting Committee, [1914]</p> <p>Book Notes: Recruitment posters encouraged young British men to join the army in 1914.</p> | <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2003662917/</p> |
|  | <p>Title: With our troops at the battles of Flanders. Jacking a field gun out of the mud to get it to a new position</p> <p>Creator(s): Unknown</p> <p>Date Created/Published: 1914</p> <p>Book Notes: Arriving in Flanders, the soldiers find life wet, cold and muddy.</p> | <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2009632088/</p> |



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|  | <p>Title: Abandoned British trench which was captured by the Germans; in background, German soldiers on horseback view the scene</p> <p>Creator(s): The caption on back written in German suggests it is a captured German photo</p> <p>Date Created/Published: between 1914 and 1918</p> <p>Book Notes: It shows the trenches and how the soldiers lived as described in the book.</p> | <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2005697195/</p> |
|  | <p>Title: Removing the dead from the trenches [World War I]</p> <p>Creator(s): Unknown</p> <p>Created/Published: c1919 Sept. 18.</p> <p>Book Notes: Trench warfare affected both armies equally</p> | <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2005683713/</p> |
|  | <p>Title: German soldiers posed in trenches in World War I</p> <p>Creator(s): Unknown</p> <p>Date Created/Published: between 1914 and 1918</p> <p>Book Notes: German soldiers were also miserable in their trenches.</p> | <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/89715083/</p> |
|  | <p>Title: "Over the top" - American soldiers answering the bugle call to "charge"</p> <p>Creator(s): Keystone View Company.,</p> <p>Date Created/Published: Meadville, Pa. Keystone View Co., c1918 March 25.</p> <p>Book Notes: The idea of "going over the top" like in the book, (even tho this pic is of Americans) and also the fact that it is a stereoscopic viewer, which could be a side discussion.</p> | <p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/96505415/</p> |



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|  | <p>Title: Becky in WWI trenches in Belgium near French border. Creator(s): Rebecca McCollum Date Created: July 2010 Book Notes: I was able to tour various WWI battlefields in 2010, my interest in WWI due in part to the book <i>War Game</i>.</p> | Not publicly available. |
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Listed below are some discussion ideas related to this book:

1. Introduce WWI
 - a. Assess prior knowledge: What do the students know about it? (Countries involved, reason it started)
2. What motivates men and women to join the military? Do students have any family experience with military?
3. Compare and contrast the “idea” of war and the “reality.”
 - a. How and why are they different?
 - b. What impact do these differences have?
4. Compare and contrast technological advances affecting soldiers
 - a. then (trench warfare and shell shock) and now (predator drones, etc.)
 - b. How do soldiers deal with “new” ideas and experiences?
5. Discovering similarities with the “enemy”
 - a. Does that happen in every war?
 - b. What about present day?
6. After reading the ending, look at the dedication of the book.
 - a. Why did Mr. Foreman write it?
 - b. Are there other stories he has written about his family and war? (There are.)

Created by: Rebecca K. McCollum

Last Updated: August 2011