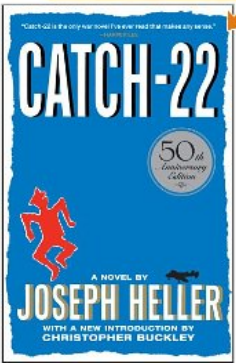






## Book Backdrops: Connecting Literature and Primary Sources

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|                         | <p><b>Title:</b> Catch-22</p> <p><b>Author:</b> Joseph Heller</p> <p><b>Grade Level(s):</b> 11-12, College</p> <p><b>Topic/Theme:</b> Yossarian, a bombardier in WWII, describes the futility of war and his attempts to escape it.</p>   | <p><b>Book Type:</b> novel, satire</p> <p><b>Setting and Time Period:</b> World War II</p> <p><b>Subjects:</b> anti-war views in US, pacifism</p> |
| <p><b>Primary Source Thumbnail</b></p>   | <p><b>Caption</b><br/><b>Publication Information</b><br/><b>Book Notes</b></p>  | <p><b>URL</b></p>   |
|                        | <p><b>Title:</b> Formations of B-25s wing their way to a rail target in northern Italy</p> <p><b>Creator(s):</b> Dan A. Sheeting<br/><b>Date Created/Published:</b> 1942</p> <p><b>Book Notes:</b> Yossarian is part of a B-25 bomber group in Italy.</p>   | <p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/95519346/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/95519346/</a></p>  |
|  <p>(enlargeable)</p> | <p><b>Title:</b> A Nazi supply dump goes up in smoke. A U.S. B-25 medium bomber roars over Tivoli, Nazi supply center ten miles east of Rome. Now a smoking ruin, it was used by the Germans as a terminal for routing reinforcements to battle areas</p> <p><b>Creator(s):</b> Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection (Library of Congress)<br/><b>Date Created/Published:</b> between 1940 and 1946</p> | <p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/owi2002049823/PP/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/owi2002049823/PP/</a></p>                        |



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|  | <p><b>Book Notes:</b> Yossarian is part of a B-25 bomber group. Chart the members and jobs of others in group.</p>   |  |
|                         | <p><b>Title:</b> US out of Vietnam for life on earth : national student anti-war conference, Cleveland, Ohio, February 13, 14, 15, 1970<br/><b>Creator(s):</b> Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in S.E. Asia, sponsor/advertiser; Skiles, Jacqueline, artist, copyright claimant; Grossman, Neal, sponsor/advertiser.<br/><b>Date Created/Published:</b> 1970</p> <p><b>Book Notes:</b> Although published after WWII and Korea and before Vietnam, the book has achieved anti-war icon status due to its pacifist message.</p> | <p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/van1996001072/PP/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/van1996001072/PP/</a></p> |
|  <p>(enlargeable)</p> | <p><b>Title:</b> Anti-Vietnam war protest and demonstration in front of the White House in support of singer Eartha Kitt<br/><b>Creator(s):</b> Leffler, Warren K., photographer, O'Halloran, Thomas J. , photographer<br/><b>Date Created/Published:</b> 1968 January 19</p> <p><b>Book Notes:</b> Yossarian is seen as an anti-war speaker for the views expressed in the book, as are a few others. Some other characters, conversely, represent the military point of view.</p>  | <p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010646065/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010646065/</a></p>             |



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| Document/Manuscript | <p><b>Title:</b> Military Law Review<br/><b>Creator(s):</b> Dept. of Army<br/><b>Date Created/Published:</b> Summer 2010</p> <p><b>Book Notes:</b> Catch-22 has become a phrase meaning a “no-win situation” where one requirement cancels out another.</p> | <p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/Military_Law_Review/pdf-files/204-summer-2010.pdf">http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/Military_Law_Review/pdf-files/204-summer-2010.pdf</a></p> |
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### Questions and ideas for discussion:

1. Yossarian is in the war but wants only to live – do you think all soldiers experience that? If so, why go to war? (Discuss draft vs. volunteer armies and “causes”)
2. Examine the statement “All diplomacy is a continuation of war by other means.” ~ Zhou Enlai, Chinese Premier, *Saturday Evening Post* 27 Mar 54
3. Airman Snowdon’s Secret shows the reader the futility of war and the spirit of man. (“Man is garbage. Drop him from a building, he will fall. Set him on fire, he will burn. What makes man is the spirit”) Is this a “secret”? Do you agree with the statement? Why or why not?
4. Compare to other famous stories like *All Quiet on the Western Front* or *Red Badge of Courage*. Do all wars create anti-war protestors?
5. Why has “Catch-22” become part of the American lexicon? Do you think most people who use it know where it came from or what it originally meant? How does this phrase resonate with people today?

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