

Hazelwick School Library

First World War Centenary Book List



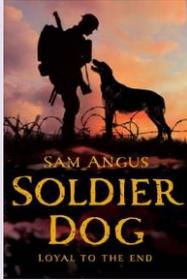
Mrs Thornton
July 2014

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First World War Centenary Book List

Please note that due to the theme of the following titles, there are some scenes that students may find upsetting.

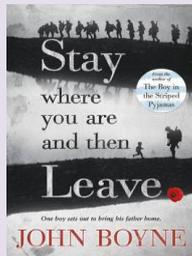
Teen Fiction



Soldier Dog by Sam Angus

Soldier Dog is the moving tale of young Stanley who runs away from home and his father to join the Army to train as a dog handler. Stanley soon finds himself in the centre of the action when he and his dog Bones are sent to France and experiences the horrors of war. Will Stanley survive to be reunited with his father? A must read for fans of War Horse by Michael Morpurgo.

(Reading Age: 10 to 12, Interest Level: 12 to 15)



Stay Where You Are and Then Leave by John Boyne

From the author of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, this is a moving and uplifting story of a boy's search for his missing father. Alfie Summerfield's father promises his son that he will not go away to fight and then breaks his promise the next day. Four years pass and Alfie has no idea as to his father's whereabouts and only knows that he is on a special and secret mission. Alfie unexpectedly sees his father's name on a sheaf of papers belonging to a military doctor and he realises his father is a patient in a nearby hospital where soldiers are treated for shell-shock. Alfie makes it his mission to rescue his father.

(Reading Age: 10 to 12, Interest Level: 9 to 14)



Remembrance by Theresa Breslin

This story follows the lives and war time experiences of a group of five young friends. Fifteen year old Charlotte starts work in the local hospital but dreams of becoming a nurse to the injured soldiers in France.

John is counting the days until his eighteenth birthday so he can sign up and join his friends at the Front. John's twin sister Maggie relishes the new career opportunities the war offers young women. Francis is the last member of the group and is the only one who is filled with dread and foresees the tragedy ahead.

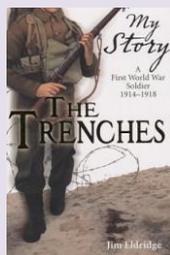
(Reading Age: 12 to 14, Interest Level: 12 to 16)



Eleven Eleven by Paul Dowswell

I have chosen this title as it is an engaging read about friendship and recounts the life at the Front from different viewpoints. The plot follows the fates of an American, British, and German soldier in the final hours of the war.

(Reading Age: 10 to 14, Interest Level: 12 to 15)

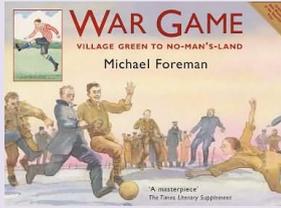


The Trenches : a First World War soldier 1914-1918 by Jim

Eldridge

Told in diary format, this title is one of the My Story series of books and relates the fictionalised account of a young soldier's experiences on the Western Front during World War One. The story is set in Ypres in 1917 and telegraph operator Billy Stevens takes part in the deadly Big Push. Will he survive?

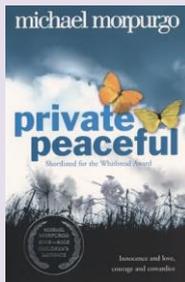
(Reading Age: 10 to 12, Interest Level: 9 to 14)



War Game by Michael Foreman

A classic retelling of the true story of the Christmas Day cease-fire football match that took place in No Man's Land. It is beautifully illustrated with Foreman's watercolour paintings which help to create a moving and compelling read.

(Reading Age: 9 to 11, Interest Level: 8 to 14)



Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

A stunning novel about World War One as seen through the eyes of Private Thomas Peaceful which won several awards. Looking back over his life, Thomas recalls his time spent on the Front which changed his life forever. A truly moving and atmospheric story layered with historical detail.

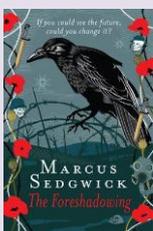
(Reading Age: 10 to 12, Interest Level: 12 to 14)



War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

The quality of writing justifies having two Morpurgo titles on the one list! Joey the horse recounts this story of his life as he moves from the farm to the battlefield. A moving story about the bond of friendships formed in war time.

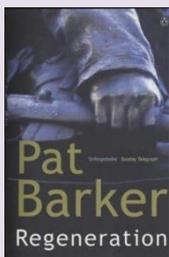
(Reading Age: 8 to 10, Interest Level: 10 to 13)



The Foreshadowing by Marcus Sedgwick

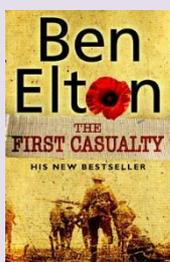
This is a totally absorbing story about Sasha, a seventeen year girl old who has premonitions of the future. When she foresees the death of her eldest brother who then later dies in battle, Sasha decides to travel to France as a nurse in a bid to find her other brother and save him. Please note that the story starts with chapter 101 and ends with chapter 1. Some younger students may find some of the graphic descriptions and the action Sasha takes to protect her brother upsetting. (Reading Age: 12 to 14, Interest Level: 13 to 16)

Adult Fiction



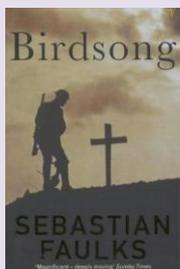
The Regeneration Trilogy by Pat Barker

Inspired by the real life meeting between Siegfried Sassoon and Doctor Rivers, this opening novel in the trilogy gives a vivid portrayal of life at the Front and the psychological conditions suffered by the men as a direct result. This title is followed by *The Eye in the Door* and the trilogy concludes with *The Ghost Road*.



The First Casualty by Ben Elton

The central character of this story is Douglas Kingsley who finds himself imprisoned for being a conscientious objector. Before the war, Kingsley worked as a detective with the London police and it is for this reason that he is released and sent to France. Kingsley's investigations take place during the Third Battle of Ypres and Kingsley quickly learns that the first casualty of war is truth.



Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks

The focus of this novel is a young man named Stephen Wraysford and the story relates his experiences in France before, during and after World War I. Stephen falls in love with the unhappily married Isabelle and as their relationship falters, he volunteers to fight at the Front. An emotional read from the start!

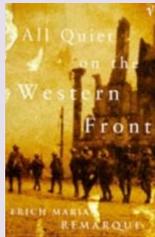
SUSAN HILL



Strange Meeting by Susan Hill

The title of this book is taken from the poem by Wilfred Owen which dealt with the atrocities of war. The novel begins with the story's protagonist John Hilliard recovering in a military hospital.

John had recently been on sick leave with his family in England and he found it difficult to deal with the family's ignorance of life in the trenches. Longing to return to the trenches, Hilliard is distraught to discover that many of the men in his battalion had been killed or injured. This is a moving story from the start to the finish.



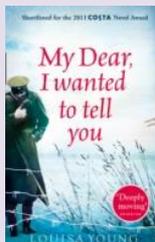
All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

The author Remarque was a German veteran of World War I and he drew upon his experiences to write about the extreme physical and mental stress of German soldiers. The compelling theme of the novel is the struggle the soldiers experience to revert to civilian life.



Return of the Soldier by Rebecca West

Set during World War I on an isolated country estate, West's haunting novel focuses upon a shell-shocked captain suffering from amnesia, and his bittersweet homecoming to the three women who have helped shape his life. The novel is told from the perspective of his cousin Jenny and was originally published in 1918.



My Dear, I Wanted to Tell You by Louisa Young

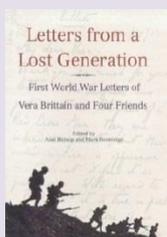
This title was shortlisted for the 2011 Costa Novel Award and examines the lasting effects of war on the people who fought and the women they leave behind. Set in Ypres, London, and Paris, the first half of the story focuses upon the experiences that the five central characters have in adapting to the realities of war and the changes war makes to their relationships. The second half of the story relates how one of the characters suffers a traumatic injury and the impact this has upon the other characters.

Non-Fiction & Poetry Collections



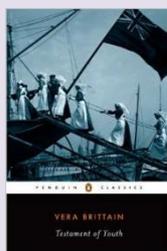
Forgotten Voices of the Great War by Max Arthur

A team from the Imperial War Museum set about tracing the veterans of WWI and interviewed them to record their wartime experiences. Forty years later, the author Max Arthur and his team of researchers were given unlimited access to the taped interviews and the resulting book of memoirs makes compelling reading.



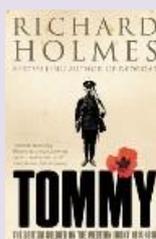
Letters from a Lost Generation by Alan Bishop & Mark Bostridge

Vera Brittain lost four men on the battlefields of the Great War, her fiancé, her brother, and two close friends. This book is a selection of letters written between the five young people and formed the basis for Brittain's autobiography 'Testament of Youth'.



Testament of Youth by Vera Brittain

Vera Brittain abandoned her studies at Oxford in 1915 to enlist as a nurse in the armed services and part of this book focuses on her nursing experiences. This outstanding and moving memoir also gives fascinating glimpses into the new roles women played in the war.



Tommy: The British Soldier on the Western Front by Richard Holmes

Using previously unseen letters, diaries, memoirs and poetry from the years 1914-1918, Richard Holmes paints a moving picture of the generation of British soldiers who fought and died in the trenches.



First World War Poems by Andrew Motion

This anthology of First World War poetry is compiled by former Poet Laureate Andrew Motion. In addition to a generous selection of our best-loved war poets, Motion also features the work of lesser known poets.



The Collected Poems of Wilfred Owen

This collection of Owen's poetry has an excellent preface and introduction by C Day Lewis which is well worth reading! This collection is based on manuscripts of Owen's own papers held in the British Museum and from other archives. Considered to be one of the most important British poets of World War I, Owen's poems were written in the three year period between his enlisting and his death at the Battle of Sambre.