



Bull Run

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Winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction * ALA Best Book for Young Adults * ALA Notable Children's Book

In this brilliant fictional tour de force, which the *New York Times* called "a deft, poignant novel," Newbery Medal-winning author Paul Fleischman re-creates the first great battle of the Civil War from the points of view of sixteen participants.

Northern and Southern, male and female, white and black. Here are voices that tell of the dreams of glory, the grim reality, the hopes, horror, and folly of a nation discovering the true nature of war.

Bull Run Details

Date : Published March 31st 1995 by HarperCollins (first published 1993)

ISBN : 9780064405881

Author : Paul Fleischman , David Frampton (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 128 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Military History, Civil War, Young Adult, Fiction, War, Childrens

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From Reader Review Bull Run for online ebook

Claire says

#ReadKidsLit

2017 Popsugar Reading Challenge: A novel set during wartime

The concept of this book is fantastic. The history-changing Battle of Bull Run told from multiple perspectives, creating a multi-faceted portrait of a battle in all of its historical and human context. Considering that this book is barely 100+ pages long, there's a lot of depth to this story. It's gripping, it's visceral, and it's tragic (it's amazing the kind of gruesome violence that writers can get away with in a children's book that they can't get away with in a children's movie).

My only complaint is one that a lot of readers seemed to have, that there were A LOT of characters (sixteen of them), and keeping track of them got a little tough sometimes. Each chapter is headed by a woodcut illustration specific to a certain character, which helps to give a visual on which character is currently speaking. There's also a complete cast list in the back of the book. Those two things helped a bit, but not much.

There was also, in my view, a slight shortage of black characters. Again, sixteen characters, and only two were black. Considering the subject matter, this strikes me as a bit of an oversight.

Still though, this was an excellent read that delivers more depth and intrigue in its slim 100 pages than in books twice or three times the size. Maybe this won't offer anything new to a historical fiction buff, but to a layperson like me, this hit the spot.

Amber M says

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Scott O'Dell Award

Grade Level: 5-6

Bull Run would be a wonderful book to read to the students while studying about the Civil War. This book is told through 16 different characters. Different personalities and positions offer students a variety of characters with whom they can identify. For a follow up activity I would ask the students "How did reading different accounts help us to understand the war?" I would have them write a short essay for this question.

Gordon says

After reading this book, and Seedfolks, I find myself really enjoying stories told from multiple perspectives. I think this will be a useful book for my Humanities unit.

Sam B says

Bull Run is a historical fiction novel that uses different point of views of characters to tell a story. This is a very creative way to tell a story, however, the book can be very annoying and frustrating to read because the reader keeps jumping around from character to character. I found it hard to read this book because the reader often forgets about a character and is forced to go back and read about that character again and again. This book is also very short and doesn't really satisfy the reader. The book for me took about an hour and a half to read because it is so short and I was very bored while reading this book. I would recommend this book If you are looking for a quick read about history.

Amy says

This book was assigned reading for my son's history lesson. Now granted I had the same complaint many people did. There were a lot of characters in this book that were not fleshed out enough so sometimes it was difficult to differentiate one from the other. However, one character did stand out to my son which was the 11 year old who joined the war. This was an ingenious move on the author's part since the book is designated for about a 10 to 11 year old child. My son could immediately began to relate and empathize with him. That is what overall made the book worthwhile.

It may help when studying/teaching this book to take a moment to identify who the character is and perhaps write a brief bio about them the moment they are introduced. Perhaps gather facts about them as you go. Then the story no doubt will flow a bit better without having to ask yourself, "Okay, who is this again?"

Mrs. Van says

Common Core Reading Standard 5.RL. 6 states "Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described. Paul Fleishman's book provides a perfect opportunity to address this standard. This historical fiction novel presents narratives based on the experiences of the civil war representing sixteen different viewpoints. Stories are told from the points of view of males and females, northerners and southerners, blacks and whites, and youths and adults. Students can explore their experiences and feelings about the war through an individual reading or through a reader's theater experience.

Fleischman's characters are everyday folks who are brothers, sisters, fife players, illustrators, and generals. Their stories provide the human narrative to support what students have read in their textbook. Fleischman offers suggestions regarding its use in reader's theater. This text is perfect for teaching point of view as well as inferences. This provides an opportunity for students to infer reasons for the feelings and actions of the many narrators.

I used this text in a unit to support my fifth graders' work in social studies. After their reader's theater presentations, we made a chart detailing information about each of the narrators including age, race, gender, occupation, and feelings about the war. We often had to infer their age or their feelings about the war based on their actions in the text. It makes a perfect compliment to other historical fiction accounts and nonfiction accounts of the civil war.

Nathar Ufo says

It was confusing, because each character's story was separated into chapters, but the chapters weren't from

one chapter to another chapter on the same story, it went to a different story, all mixed up.

Maya says

Okay, this is partly the fault of Paul Fleischman and partly the fault of my teacher. I had this book as a summer reading assignment and it reads like it's written for much younger readers. The characters have no personality, and are all annoying. And there are too many of them. I think the ones that annoyed me most were Shem Suggs not only because of his weird name, but because of his weird obsession with horses. I have a bestie who is obsessed with horses, and its not annoying at all. But this guy? Obsessed to the point of being unhealthy. Somebody pointed a gun at his horse and he "shot him without thinking". I half hoped his horse would die. I know, cold. But it was the author's fault for not developing the character enough so that I cared what happened to him and his stupid horse. (I know this may be surprising, but I actually do like horses quite a bit. I just wouldn't die for them.) Another annoying person always that naïve eleven year old boy who wanted to fight and kill. Just another year, buddy, and you could volunteer for the Hunger Games!! Also, that cab driver's constant 'Tis a fact'ing was super annoying. I'm not sure what messages this books is trying to send, but people, in my own words, war is bad. Okay? It just is. And this book sucks. It was a wasted two hours. Why could I not have been assigned a better book? A classic, maybe, if it had to be educational. Then I could have added that classic to my repertoire. But this book sure ain't a classic, and it sure ain't going going on my repertoire.

Lizzette says

this book is o.k, it tells you different characters perspectives, but it's really boring. I would recommend this to anyone who doesn't get bored easily.

Ryne says

It's really hard to keep track of which character is which (some symbols denoting Union or Confederacy alliance would have been nice) but this was still an excellent read with nice insights into the Civil War. I've loved everything I've seen from Paul Fleischman so far.

Will King says

February, 2017

Bull Run is an interesting book because it has multiple perspectives from both the North and the South. This makes it harder because I can't focus on one character, so I have to focus on the setting or the characters in groups. But, the book report must go on, so here goes nothing. The setting takes place during the beginning of the war, to be more specific, Bull Run. Most of the characters are fighting for the North or South. It starts out by telling them of all their origins and why and how they ended up joining the war. Then, they get set up for Bull Run before starting the battle. It goes on like the history books say and then they tell the conclusions at the end.

The main idea of bill run is that people have different opinions and that is what motivates them to do the stuff the do. Also, another main idea is that war is bad. Lots of people die, people get injured and thousands of people are scared for life from what they saw. But also, back to the first main idea, people talk about why they join the military, what they do that effects their actions. People do crazy stuff for their country and families.

Colleen Mertens says

My daughter read this for school and made it sound so interesting I had to read it too. I covers the first major land battle of the civil through the eyes of many witness. This book fictionalizes actual historic figures and adds other characters to give an overall viewpoint of how war affects all whether directly or indirectly involved with the fighting. It was a neat way to present history for middle schoolers.

Ms. Stephens says

By the end, I really liked this book for its nonpartisan and unromantic view of the Civil War.

At the beginning, I was confused by so many different characters (and their short chapters), though I appreciated that unlike *_Seedfolks_*, this book had multiple chapters from many of the characters' perspectives. (I actually liked *_Seedfolks_* overall better as a book, but this was a plus to *_Bull Run_*.) I also didn't find the stories as compelling at the beginning.

If I were teaching a Civil War unit, I'd absolutely use this book.

Jamey says

This was a good book, but I didn't like how are the characters where scramble together. In the back of the book, in the notes section, it gives the list of names of each character and it gives what pages they are on. This was a nonfiction book. It had a lot happen in this book even though it was small. It may have been hard to follow, but once you figure out who that person was than it was good. It was a battle in the Civil War, and sadly before I picked up this book I had no idea that Bull Run was even a battle or that it was during the Civil War. I may have not been told of this in class or I was didn't listen all that well. One part during this book that made me so upset was when this person who loved horses saw the battle field that was filled with dead horse. This person went out and made graves for the horses. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes real and exciting stories that takes a moment to get use to.

Caleb Christensen says

I liked this book. It was different because there was around 19 different characters in the book and they all have different perspectives on the civil war. I think the purpose of this book was to inform us of what all the people thought of the war because I couldn't really pick out a theme because there were so many varying perspectives in the book. Overall it was very interesting the hear the perspectives of a General in the North and a wife in the south and I would definitely recommend it to people.
