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A young boy and his father visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The Wall Details

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From Reader Review The Wall for online ebook

Huawei says

Summary: One day a boy and his father come to the wall to find his grandfather's name because the wall has the names who were killed in the Vietnam war. When they are finding, many different people come to here to visit. People do not forget these soldiers.

impression/opinion: I like this story because this story let the readers know we should not forget these soldiers who died in the war. Because they used their life to exchange world peace. Not sad, because people still remember these heroes. I like the teacher take her students to visit this wall, and people put the flowers under the well. I think if people still remember these heroes, then they never leave us. Also, this story can let the students to know a war is cruel because wars can kill a lot of people.

color: In 4th opening, the boy see an old soldier who lost his legs in Vietnam war. This soldier wear green clothing. The green clothing looks like an army uniform, so this is a good hint for this old man's identity. Also, the pictures use a lot of yellow, brown, and light gray to show the world is peace and nice. The light yellow is a good color to show warmth. Thank for these soldiers, they used their life to make today's peace.

Salience: The salience is the boy's red clothing. This is the only red color because his is the main character, so the red clothing can help the readers keep their eyes on this boy.

Character: This main character is the boy because the reader only use the boy's ears and eyes to get the information. The talking only happening with boy and others. The readers cannot know talking between others and others. The most thing is happening with the boy. For example, the boy talk with the old soldier. The boy never see the Vietnam war, but he follows with his father to learn what the Vietnam war, and he sees many people remember these soldiers, so he learns these soldiers used their life to exchange world peace.

POV: This is first -person. For example, "Where is Grandpa's name?" I ask. This is story for the kids, so the writer use a young boy and first- person to write this story can help the young kids have same feeling with the character. For kid's stories, the reader need to use kids' eyes to look the world because the kids will feel it is close with them.

This is a historical fiction, because it has some parts can help the reader go back to that time, and learn what the Vietnam war is. Also, Vietnam war was truly happened.

Stephanie Calhoun says

I can still remember having a teacher read this book to me when I was young. A wonderful book to read to students to discuss the loss that comes with war.

Elizabeth says

The picture book for today is a classic. The Wall c) 1990 by Eve Bunting still captures the feeling of studying the names of veterans. Dialogue: "Is this wall for the dead soldiers, Miss Gerber?" one of them asks in a loud voice. "The names are the names of the dead. But the wall is for all of us," the teacher says.

Beth says

A father takes his son to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. to find the name of the father he lost. As the father looks for the name of his own father, the son observes the people he sees who are visiting the memorial. He meets a soldier decorated with medals in a wheelchair, he sees young school children asking questions of their teacher, and people embracing each other, crying for lost loved-ones.

With simple yet descriptive prose, Eve Bunting captures the emotions of what one might experience at a visit to the Vietnam Memorial. Ronald Himler's stark yet dreamy watercolors add to that emotion.

I knew this one was going to be emotional, but I didn't foresee that the tears would start to fall almost immediately. I don't think I'll be able to use this one in the classroom seeing as how I won't be able to get through it without crying.

Leslie Bello says

A young boy and his father go to The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in search of his grandfather's name. During their visit, they encounter many different people who have connections with people on that wall or are simply visiting or passing by. The watercolor illustrations are beautiful and capture a somber mood and the character's emotions. This historical fiction book will allow children to learn about people's experiences in the past and how it can affect their present day. This would be best for grades kindergarten through third grade, especially during Veterans or Memorial Day.

Melody says

Lovely illustrations enhance the quiet, contemplative but oh-so-very-sad text. This book explores what it might feel like to be a small boy whose grandfather is only a name etched in very precise ("better than I can do") printing on a long black wall. Gorgeous imagery in the text, especially where the boy notes that he and his dad are reflected in the black mirror-like surface of the wall. It made me cry, for that little boy and for all the rest of us.

Rachel Hoeck says

The Wall by Eve Bunting is a story about a little boy and his father visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The boy and his father search for the boy's grandpa's name on the wall. Different people pass by while the boy and his father look for the grandpa's name. Eventually, the father finds his dad's name and places a picture of the boy by the wall. I liked this story because it teaches about the soldiers who fought and lost their lives fighting in the Vietnam War. It shows children to pay respect to these brave soldiers while also teaching of the terrible losses the war brought. The story also manages to keep the audience's attention by inserting different small characters into the story.

The setting takes place in present day (at the time the book was created) at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This is important because the story is teaching about the lost soldiers of the Vietnam War. By setting the story at the memorial, the author depicts how many people lost their lives in the war. The author also gives

an inside look of what it is like for the family and friends of the lost soldiers. It reveals the sadness and loss that was caused by the Vietnam War.

Another literary element that was prominent in the story was the tone. The author created a gloomy and remorseful tone in order to depict the loss of the Vietnam War. The setting of the story immediately sets this story off with a gloomy tone because the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a place that reminds us of the people who lost their lives in the war. The story conveys this tone through the sadness of the characters. For example, when the father finds his father's name, he rubs and rubs the wall, as if he wished he could have his father back (opening 7). The last page creates the remorseful tone because it shows that the child is missing out on being able to have fun memories with his grandpa.

The colors of the illustrations are an important visual element. They help establish the gloomy and remorseful tone because the colors are very dull and dark. The illustrations of the wall are especially dull and dark and the shadows on it create an even darker tone. However, the people visiting the memorial are in bright colors. For example, the father is in yellow, the boy wears a red coat, and the schoolgirls are all in bright blue uniforms. I think these colors are bright because they bring a happier, lighter feeling to the story. It shows that the soldiers will be remembered and thanked for their service.

The body language in the illustrations are also a vital visual element. The body language of the characters shows their feelings about the memorial and the lost soldiers. For example, in opening 3, the boy and his father are both holding their hands behind their backs. This is a common expression of showing respect. The father is looking towards the wall, and thus, is showing respect to the soldiers who lost their lives in the war. However, the boy is facing the veteran and showing respect to him.

This story is historical realism because it is organized around the historical Vietnam Veterans Memorial and discusses the topic of the lost soldiers from the Vietnam War. It is placed during the time after the war because the people are remembering the veterans. The story is imaginary, but very realistic and authentic because many people do visit and remember the soldiers lost at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Sophia Hermosillo says

- This book can be viewed as historical realism because of the real life events that take place from the past in the story. An example is how the story begins with this little boy and his father walking along side this endless-looking wall. There they see a veteran without his two bottom limbs and an old couple engaging in brief grief. The child starts to walk closer to the wall and sees objects such as flowers and flags and framed pictures. Then the dad starts to engage in some grief as well because of the death that has occurred. How his father had died around the same age as well. This to me says historical fiction because of the real life stories these realism because nothing about it is fake or fiction, it is all real, a real story that many families could probably relate to.

- My impression of this book was expected. Just by the title I could imagine that it would be a sad book with a serious theme. The pictures took me by surprise because of all the different angles the illustrations would take. From looking at a close up of the boy touching the stones, to a far away shot of him and his father walking away.

- The colors in this book are very detailed. The clouds are not just different shades of blue, they are also mixed with white, and gray. This makes the clouds seem as if it just rained. The boy even describes the clouds as "dark flying clouds".

- Another visual element would be the water color technique used to produce and depict the story. This makes the pictures seem like a flash back and also goes very well with the serious vibe the theme has.

Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

I was going through my picture books this morning trying to get them a little organized, and I came across The Wall, which I had completely forgotten that I owned. I wish I remembered it so for Memorial Day, but I didn't so I thought I would write about it today.

On a cool, breezy day, a young boy and his father visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC. The boys notices that the wall long long, shiny and shaped like a V. The names on the wall are in straight lines, the "letters march side by side, like rows of soldier."

But this isn't just a sightseeing visit. The boy and his father are looking for the boy's grandfather. As they search for his name, the boy sees different people approach the way - a wounded veteran, an elderly couple, a group of school girls - and the different mementos left by friends and family members who are still mourning the loss of the sons, brother, fathers, grandfathers Meanwhile, the boys father searches for the name of the father he lost when he was the age his son is now.

Finally, there it is - George Munoz. Son and father make a rubbing of his names, then quietly stand in front of it together, no doubt thinking about what a loss they have suffered.

Because, besides honoring the veterans who lost their lives in the Vietnam War, the wall also reminds us of what a profound loss to family and friends even a single life can be. And I think Eve Bunting has really captured that so well in this book, as well as what a truly emotional experience visiting the Wall can be, regardless of your feelings about the Vietnam War.

Ronald Himler's quiet impressionistic styled watercolor illustrations and his palette of background grays and semi-colorful foreground figures of visitors and mementos really reflect the somber mood of visiting such a meaningful visit.

I created this blog because I was interested in the impact war has on children effected by it and I think the little boy's last words really epitomize that impact:

"But I'd rather my grandpa here, taking me to the river, telling me to button my jacket because it's cold. I'd rather have him here."

This book is recommended for readers age 5+
This book was purchased for my personal library

This review was originally posted on The Children's War

Rex_E1 says

This book tells you about how people feel about their families when they died in war.

Colby Sharp says

No one is better at the picture book than Eve Bunting. Books like *The Wall*, *Fly Away Home*, *December*, and *Smokey Night* stay with you forever. They change the way you think, live, love, and act. EVE BUNTING is the Bomb!

Dolly says

Read in honor of Veterans Day.

Brandon Rios says

“The Wall” by Eve Bunting; illustrated by Ronald Himler

1. Awards the book received: This book has not received any awards to date.
 2. Appropriate Grade Level(s): This book is appropriate for third through fifth grade.
 3. Summary: A boy and his father visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington D.C. looking for the boy’s grandfather’s name. His grandfather was killed in action as a soldier in the Vietnam War. The boy describes his interactions with the people around him as they search for his grandfather’s name on the wall.
 4. Review: This enjoyed that this storybook covered an important part of modern American history that children’s grandparents may have lived through. I enjoyed the simplistic illustrations that give students a visual of this memorial in Washington D.C. I also liked how at the end of the story the author explains what this memorial is in remembrance of to give readers background information.
 5. Uses in the classroom:
 - Ask students to interview and write about a family member who lived during the time of the Vietnam War.
 - Have students talk with a partner about how the boy in the story might have felt as he interacted with the people around him and other key details from the story.
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Cristal Martinez says

The wall is about a young boy and his father who goes and visits the wall his grandfather’s wall, there is names of those who were killed in the war. His dad and him are looking for his grandfather’s name on the wall, during his visit the boy comes across a veteran who is disabled, notices people crying, flowers and other nice things laid against the wall for those to be remembered, and a group of school girls with their teacher visiting the wall.

My impression of the story I think it’s a great story. I think it’s a great story to read to children so they can get an idea of the Vietnam War without the story being too sad.

The setting in this story is in Washington D.C, because the little boy and his dad to go the Vietnam Memorial Wall to remember and visit the little boys grandfather, because he was in the Vietnam War.

The protagonist in this story is the boy we notice by the word text how he could be feeling different things during his visit. The little boy is also talking in first person so we are reading his story from his point of view because he says the word “I” like when he says “Its better printing than I can do” or when he says “My grandpa?, I asked” We are reading the story from his view. We can see maybe how his feeling can be shown when he says “But I’d rather have my grandpa here, taking me to the river.” That shows that he could be feeling sad because he wasn’t able to meet his grandfather.

A visual I noticed is that the boy is the only one wearing red, which makes him stand out, I think the author did this so we can see that he is the main character of the story.

I also noticed that the colors used in the images are mostly gray and blue. Gray is the color of knowledge and wisdom. While the color blue gives us that calm, sadness in a way. I think the author did this so we can see that the memorial wall is something to see our veterans being remembered but it was a sad time in the past. This is historical fiction because it is in the present but it takes us back in time when they visit the Vietnam Memorial wall, that is a war that happened in the past, and the setting is also in a real place that is Washington D.C and the Memorial wall exists.

Rylie says

This story is about the trip a young boy and his father make to the Vietnam Memorial. While looking for their grandfather's name among many others, the son observes the numerous people coming to visit the wall. The boy encounters an army soldier covered in medals, a boy much like him and his grandfather, a group of school girls, and many others coming to mourn or celebrate those that have been lost. The story takes place in a first-person point of view. You can see this in statements like, "I can see the bare trees behind us and the dark, flying clouds" and "'Where is grandpa's name?' I ask". This is used so that young readers can relate to the emotions and actions of the main character. The setting takes place in current day, but highlights a major event from the past. I assume the story takes place in current day because of the statement, "He and I have come a long way for this and we walk slowly, searching". There is no indicator that this takes place in the past. This story is highlighting the event of the Vietnam War. The wall is the Vietnam Memorial that honors the men and women who died serving our country. This is not stated until the end of the book, however the illustrations containing American flags, photos of soldiers, and crosses help to support this assumption.

The illustrations in the book, done by Ronald Himler, were very well done. The illustrations looked like they were done in watercolor, using a very similar color scheme. A large amount of grey is used, largely for the wall itself and the sky. Using different shades of grey emphasizes the significance of those we have lost in the war. One illustration that really highlighted the use of "gaze" is the image of the young boy looking at the boy and his grandfather. You can see a strong pull from the boy's eyes over to the two. I thought this illustration was especially important because the boy was there searching for his grandfather's name, you can see in his facial expression that he is longing for that relationship. This same image also has an apparent use of pastel yellows that gives the page a very earnest mood, allowing the readers to have a similar feeling to the boy watching the grandfather and grandson. This book is a very good example of historical fiction because it is written around an event and an exhibit that are both real. This book can be used as a way for children to learn about the historical event of the Vietnam War and its veterans. I really enjoyed reading this book. I thought it was written and illustrated very well. I liked this book because it told a devastating story of loss without using gore. This book would be great to use in the classroom, especially around Memorial Day, and can be a fantastic introduction to the Vietnam War. I loved the story and the emotions that were translated through the images and the text.
