

Ruth R. Caillouet

The Other Side of Terrorism and the Children of Afghanistan

Editor's note: Inspired by her son's post-9/11 National Guard service in Afghanistan, Ruth R. Caillouet designed a curriculum unit to help secondary students learn more about Afghanistan. She also suggests literature from across cultures and time periods to help students discuss what it means to be "at war." The article appears in the November issue of *EJ*. In this extension, she provides a list of resources for further exploring issues of war and peace.

Any teacher searching for materials about war and peace will have no shortage of information. The books, stories, music, poetry, and films listed below are just a sampling of possibilities. Teachers will want to choose carefully not only according to reading level but also according to emotional level, and it is of utmost importance that we try to present a balance of opinions and views. Students need to hear the patriotic ballads and soldier's tributes as well as the war protests and angry condemnations. As much as we may all want peace, our job as English teachers is to allow students to read and respond to literature and media without demanding one political viewpoint. Some of the materials listed here are items that I have used in the classroom, while others have been a comfort for me personally in these troubling times.

General Books about Peace and War

- Armstrong, Jennifer. *Shattered: Stories of Children and War*. New York: Knopf, 2002.
- Faulks, Sebastian, and Jörg Hensgen, eds. *The Vintage Book of War Fiction*. 1999. New York: Vintage, 2002.
- Hesse, Karen. *The Cats in Krasinski Square*. New York: Scholastic, 2004.
- Hollander, John, ed. *War Poems*. New York: Knopf, 1999.
- Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Fifth Book of Peace*. New York: Knopf, 2003.
- Monseau, Virginia R., ed. *A Curriculum of Peace: Selected Essays from English Journal*. Urbana: NCTE, 2004.

- Radunsky, Vladimir. *What Does Peace Feel Like?* 2003. New York: Atheneum, 2004.
- Rosoff, Meg. *How I Live Now*. New York: Wendy Lamb, 2004.
- Rostand, Edmond. *Cyrano de Bergerac: A Play in Five Acts*. 1898. Trans. Gladys Thomas and Mary F. Guillemard. New York: Russell, 1900.
- Shaw, Bernard. *Arms and the Man: A Pleasant Play*. New York: Dodd, 1926.
- Spinelli, Jerry. *Knots in My Yo-Yo String: The Autobiography of a Kid*. New York: Knopf, 1998.
- Seuss, Dr. *The Butter Battle Book*. New York: Random, 1984.

Fantasy and War

- Collins, Suzanne. *Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods: Book Three in the Underland Chronicles*. New York: Scholastic, 2005.
- Lewis, C. S. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: A Story for Children*. New York: Collier, 1950.

American Revolution

- Collier, James Lincoln, and Christopher Collier. *My Brother Sam Is Dead*. New York: Simon, 1974.
- . *War Comes to Willy Freeman*. New York: Yearling, 1983.
- Forbes, Esther Hoskins. *Johnny Tremain*. Boston: Houghton, 1943.
- Martin, Joseph Plumb. *Yankee Doodle Boy: A Young*

Soldier's Adventures in the American Revolution Told by Himself. Ed. George F. Scheer. New York: Scott, 1964.

Civil War

- Beatty, Patricia. *Charley Skedaddle*. New York: Morrow, 1987.
- Fleischman, Paul. *Bull Run*. New York: Harper, 1993.
- Herbert, Janis. *The Civil War for Kids: A History with 21 Activities*. Chicago: Chicago Review, 1999.
- Holland, Isabelle. *Behind the Lines*. New York: Scholastic, 1994.
- Keith, Harold. *Rifles for Watie*. 1957. New York: Harper, 1987.
- Paulsen, Gary. *Soldier's Heart: Being the Story of the Enlistment and Due Service of the Boy Charley Goddard in the First Minnesota Volunteers*. New York: Delacorte, 1998.
- Peck, Richard. *The River Between Us*. New York: Dial, 2003.
- Polacco, Patricia. *Pink and Say*. New York: Philomel, 1994.
- Reit, Seymour. *Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy*. San Diego: Harcourt, 1988.
- Wisler, G. Clifton. *Red Cap*. New York: Lodestar, 1991.

World Wars

- Amis, Nancy. *The Orphans of Normandy: A True Story of World War II Told through Drawings by Children*. New York: Atheneum, 2003.
- Bishop, Claire Huchet. *Twenty and Ten*. Told by Janet Joly. 1952. New York: Puffin, 1978.
- Bunting, Eve. *Terrible Things: An Allegory of the Holocaust*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1989.
- Greene, Bette. *Summer of My German Soldier*. 1973. New York: Dial, 2003.
- Rylant, Cynthia. *I Had Seen Castles*. Orlando: Harcourt, 1993.
- Tsuchiya, Yukio. *Faithful Elephants: The Story of Animals, People, and War*. 1951. Trans. Tomoko Tsuchiya Dykes. Boston: Houghton, 1988.

Korean War and Vietnam

- Bunting, Eve. *The Wall*. New York: Clarion, 1990.
- Denenberg, Barry. *Voices from Vietnam*. New York: Scholastic, 1995.
- Groom, Winston. *Forrest Gump*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1986.
- O'Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried*. Boston: Houghton, 1990.
- Soto, Gary. *A Summer Life*. 1990. New York: Bantam, 1991.
- Steinman, Ron. *The Soldiers' Story: Vietnam in Their Own Words*. New York: TV Books, 1999.

Middle East Conflicts

- Clinton, Cathryn. *A Stone in My Hand*. Cambridge: Candlewick, 2002.
- Lamb, Christina. *The Sewing Circles of Herat: A Personal Voyage through Afghanistan*. New York: Harper, 2002.
- Last Letters Home: Voices of Americans from the Battlefields of Iraq*. New York: Life, 2004.
- Nafisi, Azar. *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*. New York: Random, 2003.
- Sultan, Masuda. *My War at Home: A Memoir*. New York: Washington Square, 2006.
- Winter, Jeanette. *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*. Orlando: Harcourt, 2005.

Short Prose Selections

- O'Brien, Tim. "The Things They Carried." *The Things They Carried*. Boston: Houghton, 1990. 1–25.
- O'Flaherty, Liam. "The Sniper." *Liam O'Flaherty: The Collected Stories*. Ed. A. A. Kelly. Vol. 1. New York: St. Martin's, 1999. 96–99.
- Soto, Gary. "The War Years." *A Summer Life*. 1990. New York: Bantam, 1991. 30–32.
- Spinelli, Jerry. "War." *Knots in My Yo-Yo String: The Autobiography of a Kid*. New York: Knopf, 1998. 10–15.
- Twain, Mark. "The War Prayer." *Heath Anthology of American Literature*. Ed. Paul Lauter et al. 4th ed. Vol. 2. Boston: Houghton, 2002. 111–13.

Poetry

- Brooke, Rupert. "The Soldier." *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt and M. H. Abrams. 8th ed. Vol. 8. New York: Norton, 2005. 1955–56.
- Crane, Stephen. "Do Not Weep, Maiden, for War Is Kind." Ed. Jon Stallworthy. *The Oxford Book of War Poetry*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1984. 131–32.
- Eberhart, Richard. "The Fury of Aerial Bombardment." *War Poems*. Ed. John Hollander. New York: Knopf, 1999. 206.
- Hardy, Thomas. "The Man He Killed." *War Poems*. Ed. John Hollander. New York: Knopf, 1999. 237.
- Jarrell, Randall. "Losses." *War Poems*. Ed. John Hollander. New York: Knopf, 1999. 208–09.
- . "The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner." *War Poems*. Ed. John Hollander. New York: Knopf, 1999. 207.
- Komunyakaa, Yusef. "Facing It." *The Seagull Reader: Poems*. Ed. Joseph Kelly. New York: Norton, 2001. 126–27.
- Lovelace, Richard. "To Lucasta, Going to the Wars." *The Oxford Book of War Poetry*. Ed. Jon Stallworthy. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1984. 50.
- Owen, Wilfred. "Anthem for Doomed Youth." *The Oxford Book of War Poetry*. Ed. Jon Stallworthy. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1984. 188.
- . "Dulce et Decorum est." *War Poems*. Ed. John Hollander. New York: Knopf, 1999. 171–72.
- Rich, Adrienne. "Newsreel." *War Poems*. Ed. John Hollander. New York: Knopf, 1999. 220–21.
- Sandburg, Carl. "Grass." *The Oxford Book of War Poetry*. Ed. Jon Stallworthy. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1984. 168.
- Sassoon, Siegfried. "Dreamers." *Collected Poems*. London: Faber, 1947. 71.

Films

- Band of Brothers*. Dir. David Frankel and Tom Hanks. HBO Home Video, 2001.
- Deer Hunter, The*. Dir. Michael Cimino. Universal Studios, 1979.
- Forrest Gump*. Dir. Robert Zemeckis. Paramount, 1994.
- For the Boys*. Dir. Mark Rydell. 20th Century Fox, 1991.

- Good Morning, Vietnam*. Dir. Barry Levinson. Touchstone Pictures, 1988.
- Platoon*. Dir. Oliver Stone. MGM, 1986.
- We Were Soldiers*. Dir. Randall Wallace. Paramount, 2002.
- Windtalkers*. Dir. John Woo. MGM, 2002.

September 11 Books and Web Sites

- "America Transformed: NPR Coverage Sept. 11–Oct. 8, 2001." 2006. National Public Radio. 24 Oct. 2006 <<http://www.npr.org/news/specials/americastransformed>>.
- H. Byron Masterson Elementary. *September 12th: We Knew Everything Would Be All Right*. New York: Scholastic, 2002.
- Heard, Georgia, ed. *This Place I Know: Poems of Comfort*. Cambridge: Candlewick, 2002.
- Longman, Jere. *Among the Heroes: United Flight 93 and the Passengers and Crew Who Fought Back*. New York: Harper, 2002.
- Maynard, Joyce. *The Usual Rules*. New York: St. Martin's, 2003.
- Messina, James J., and Constance M. Messina. *Coping.org: Tools for Coping with Life's Stressors*. 24 Oct. 2006 <<http://www.coping.org/911/memory/content.htm>>.
- Powers, Jason. *Can't Cry Hard Enough: A Tribute to the Victims of September 11, 2001*. 18 Sept. 2001. 24 Oct. 2006 <<http://www.cantcryhardenough.com>>.
- Thoms, Annie, ed. *With Their Eyes: September 11th: The View from a High School at Ground Zero*. New York: Harper, 2002.

Music

- Armstrong, Louis. "What a Wonderful World." *Good Morning, Vietnam: The Original Motion Picture Soundtrack*. A&M Records, 1988.
- Byrds, The. "Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)." *Forrest Gump: The Soundtrack*. Sony, 1994.
- Carpenter, Mary Chapin. "Grand Central Station." *Between Here and Gone*. Sony, 2004.
- Cash, Johnny, and Dave Matthews. "For You." *We Were Soldiers*. Sony, 2002.
- Crosby, David, and Graham Nash. "My Country 'Tis of Thee." *Crosby Nash*. Sanctuary Records, 2004.

- Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young. "Ohio." *So Far*. 1974. Atlantic Recording, 1994.
- Dixie Chicks. "Travelin' Soldier." *Home*. Sony, 2002.
- . "Godspeed (Sweet Dreams)." *Home*. Sony, 2002.
- Etheridge, Melissa. "Tuesday Morning." *Lucky*. Island, 2004.
- Gentry, Montgomery. "Didn't I." *We Were Soldiers*. Sony, 2002.
- Indigo Girls. "Findlandia." *Indigo Girls Rarities*. Sony, 2005.
- . "Get Together." *The Wonder Years*. Atlantic Recording, 1989.
- Jackson, Alan. "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)." *The Very Best of Alan Jackson*. BMG, 2004.
- Jewel. "Life Uncommon." *Spirit*. Atlantic Recording, 1998.
- Midler, Bette. "In My Life." *For the Boys: Music from the Motion Picture*. Atlantic Recording, 1991.
- Montgomery, John Michael. "Letters from Home." *Letters from Home*. Warner Brothers, 2004.
- Stevens, Cat. "Peace Train." *The Very Best of Cat Stevens*. A&M Records, 2000.
- Worley, Darryl. "POW 369." *Have You Forgotten?* Dreamworks Nashville, 2003.
- . "Shiloh." *Have You Forgotten?* Dreamworks Nashville, 2003.
- Young, Neil. "Living with War." *Living with War*. Reprise, 2006.