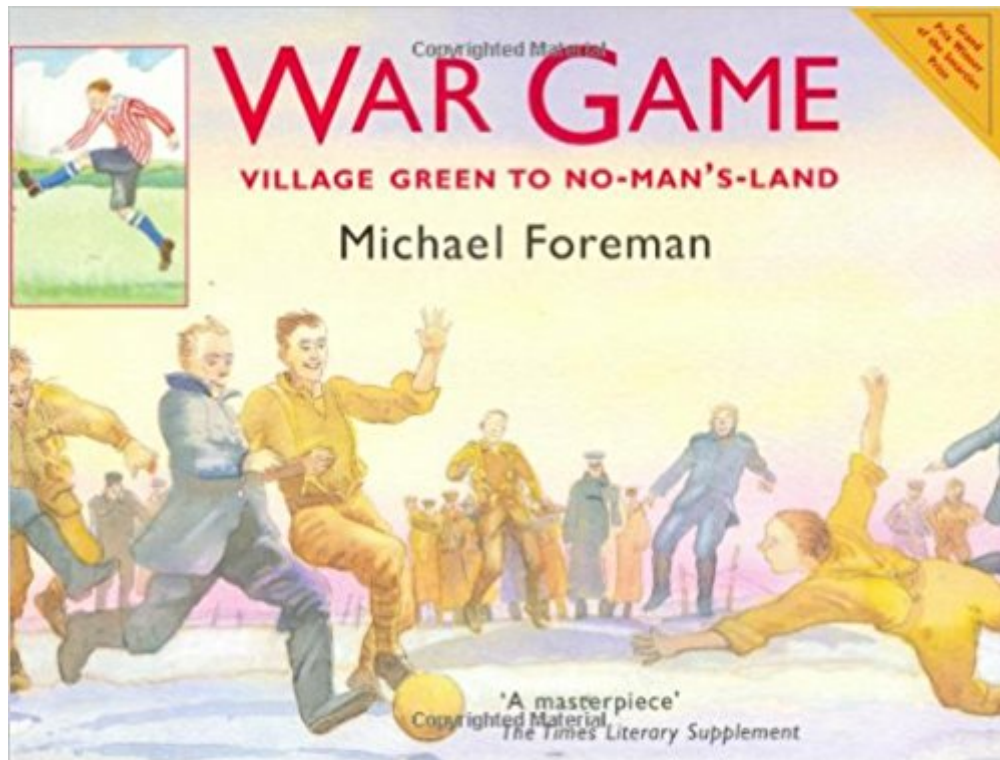




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War Game: Village Green To No-Man's-Land



Synopsis

Based on a true account of a football game played between the German and English troops in no-man's land on Christmas Day in 1914 during World War I, this book tells the story of four young men who have recently enlisted and have found that war is not as glamorous as they had once thought. The young men get to realize their dream of playing football for England when the English and German sides hold a ceasefire on Christmas Day and they play a friendly game against one another. This special new edition with beautiful color artwork is a touching and emotive story for children and adults to treasure.

Book Information

Paperback: 96 pages

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Customer Reviews

Dedicated to the memory of four uncles who died in WW I, Foreman's moving, informative follow-up to *War Boy* is crammed with concrete details and permeated with emotion. Freddie, Billy, Lacey and Will, youths from the English countryside, find themselves caught up in the euphoria of flag-waving and patriotism when war breaks out in 1914. From every mailbox, every wall, posters demand devotion to king and country; reproductions of these posters alternate with Foreman's understated watercolors. Amid cheers and jubilation, the four sign up. Their excitement is palpable as they head off to France, and the sensitive illustrations distill their sense of adventure. "We'll be back by Christmas," they think, but are met at the front with gunfire, rain, mud, hunger and death. Hope reigns anew on Christmas Day, when the Germans and the "Tommies" play soccer, exchange gifts and greetings, but it is short-lived. Foreman draws the many sides of war with heartbreaking clarity as he transmutes the personal experiences of his uncles into a universal story. Artwork shimmers

with the luster of memory and fellow-feeling; a gentle gleam rises even from military hardware, which serves to both soften and highlight the horror of war. History springs to life in this admirable work, the 1993 winner of Britain's Smarties Book Prize. Ages 8-12. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"An unforgettable experience.' The Guardian"

This is a book to purchase with great care. The pictures are well done (Except you will see drawings of dead bodies) and the three boy who grow into men and go to war together draws the reader in. But the ending!!!! As the boys die in the trenches, it is a heartbreaker. It goes into detail about the misery of trenchwar tactics of WWI, so in that way it is educational. The sensitive child, or even just young child will be scarred by this book. If you have a child who is grieving--forget it. The ending comes on too quick and the reader has no readiness to face the death of the beloved character.

I read this book for the first time a few years ago, and it's one of the few picture books that have really stuck with me. The illustrations and story are simple, but that does not detract from it's power. War Game tells the story of Will and his friends, who all enjoy playing football, as they join the army in 1914. It's packed with historical detail, but not so much that it will bore kids. The heart of the story centers around the Christmas Truce of 1914, a truly incredible bit of history, with warmth and feeling, but not sentimentality. The book's conclusion is heartbreaking (it's probably not for very young or very sensitive kids), and every time I read it, I have to reach for some tissues. All in all, this is a wonderful children's book, fully deserving the award it won, and a gentle, yet honest, way to introduce kids to World War One.

Teaching kids about war can be challenging. On the one hand, there is the desire to praise heroism and greatness, but on the other, who doesn't idealistically want to teach kids to avoid war? After all, if every kid grew up abhorring war, our grandchildren would have a more peaceful existence, right? Well, maybe not---but this isn't philosophy, it's a book review. This book, though, is a good tool to work on that philosophy. Even with the mostly cheerful illustrations, War Game makes no light work of warfare and death. It's a story of young boys forced into a terrible situation, a brief glimmer of hope on Christmas Eve, and then a return to reality. For a good discussion starter or for an effort to bring World War One down from "Central Powers vs. Allies" to a human situation, this book is a great one for it. My 10-year-old read it to my 8 and 5 year olds for history and then we had some

family discussion about it.

This is a good book that provides a realistic view in a poignant way.

We love this book! It was an excellent read after visiting the WW1 Museum in KC, not once but twice!

This is a rare book for anyone who loves to teach and learn about history. Michael Foreman has taken a remarkable event (i.e. The Christmas Day Truce of WWI) and created a timeless tale. His book is packed with wonderful illustrations, and contains many facts about the Great War. Foreman has also woven primary documents from the time period throughout the book; most of which are in the form of propaganda posters. Overall, this book comes highly recommended, and it will be a shame if it is not re-printed soon!

War Game was read to 6th grade students studying World War I. The author's excellent story line as well as superb illustrations dramatically told WWI thru a young man's eyes. Mr. Foreman captured our students attention at the beginning of the short story with the excitement and adventure of war. Closing the story with the realities of war, the classroom fell silent as the students grasped war's ultimate end -- the death of people they had come to "know". A very powerful life-lesson for all of us.

War Game had me crying by the end, in that moment when the last few pages make sense. It skilfully humanises what seems an impossibly big catastrophe, so long ago, but here made immediate and personal as it always should be. I am very glad Michael Foreman created this book and I am very glad I read it. Simply beautiful.

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