

# ***Boy's War* by Jim Murphy (Published by Clarion Books)**

Approved for use in Communication Arts, Grade 7

## **Summary**

*Boy's War* is a non-fiction account of soldiers' lives, prison camps, medicine, weaponry and heartache during the Civil War. This is a realistic view of the difficult times and trials of life during war times. It offers an insight to history in our country.

## **Connection to the Curriculum**

*Boy's War* brings the Civil War era to life. This book offers a great opportunity for students to read a non-fictional account of the Civil War times and provides a direct connection to the Social Studies curriculum. Students can examine the elements of a non-fiction text.

## **Standards**

### **Course Objectives (Benchmarks)**

**Reading:** 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

**Literature:** 2.1- The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text.

### **Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)**

#### **Reading:**

1.3.5- The student determines the meaning of words or phrases using context clues from sentences or paragraphs.

1.4.17- The student compares and contrasts varying aspects (e.g., characters' traits and motives, themes, problem-solution, cause-effect relationships, ideas and concepts, procedures, viewpoints) in one or more appropriate-level texts.

1.4.20- The student identifies the topic, main idea(s), supporting details, and theme(s) in text across the content areas and from a variety of sources in appropriate-level text.

#### **Literature:**

2.1.1- The student describes different aspects of characters (e.g., their physical traits, personality traits, feelings, actions, motives) and analyzes how major characters are developed (through their thoughts, words, speech patterns, actions) and how they change over time.

2.1.2- The student identifies and describes the setting (e.g., environment, time of day or year, historical period, situation, place) and analyzes connections between the setting and other story elements (e.g., character, plot).

2.1.3- The student identifies major and minor elements of the plot (e.g., conflict, crisis/turning moment, climax, resolution, rising action, falling action, subplots, parallel episodes) and explains how these elements relate to another.

2.1.4- The student understands aspects of theme (e.g. moral, lesson, meaning, message, author's ideas about the subject) and supports with implicit/explicit information from the text.

2.1.5- The student identifies the use of literary devices (e.g., foreshadowing, flashback, figurative language, irony, metaphor, tone/mood, symbolism) in a text and how the author uses such device to help establish tone and mood.

See Also: US History Objectives (such as explains the circumstance that shaped the Civil war and its outcome; examine economic resources, technological resources, and human resources; recognize contributions of people in this war; analyze credibility, purpose, perspective, and point of view of historical material)

## **A Note on the Text**

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

*This nonfiction book covers the American Civil War and reveals a glimpse of war conditions including food, fatigue, and injuries. It includes authentic photographs.*

## **Additional Unit Design Connections**

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities