

## ***The Christmas Truce: EDUCATION RESOURCES AWARD FINALIST SMSC Resource (Poppy)***

On July 29th 1914, the world ' s peace was shattered as the artillery of the Austria-Hungary Empire began shelling the troops of the country to its south. What followed was like a row of falling dominoes as one European country after another rushed into war. Soon most of Europe was fighting in this calamitous war that could have been avoided. This was, of course, the First World War. But who could have guessed that on December 25 the troops would openly defy their commanding officers by stopping the fighting and having a spontaneous celebration of Christmas with their "enemies"?

Christmas Day, 1914 My dear sister Janet, It is 2:00 in the morning and most of our men are asleep in their dugouts -- yet I could not sleep myself before writing to you of the wonderful events of Christmas Eve. In truth, what happened seems almost like a fairy tale, and if I hadn't been through it myself, I would scarce believe it. Just imagine: While you and the family sang carols before the fire there in London, I did the same with enemy soldiers here on the battlefields of France! The Christmas Truce of 1914 is one of the most extraordinary incidents

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not only of World War I but of all military history. Providing inspiration for songs, books, plays, and movies, it has endured as an archetypal image of peace. Yet much about the historic event remains shrouded in myth and legend. In this fictional letter -- illustrated in authentic detail by Wendy Edelson -- award-winning author Aaron Shepard draws from firsthand accounts of soldiers at the front to portray the truce in its true nature and spirit. TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS -- A READER'S THEATER SCRIPT OF THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE FREE ON AARON'S WEB SITE. //////////////////////////////////////

Aaron Shepard's many books for young people have won honors from the American Library Association, the New York Public Library, the Bank Street College of Education, the American Folklore Society, and the National Council for the Social Studies. Wendy Edelson has been honored with the Pacific Northwest Book Award, the Moonbeam Children's Book Award, and the Mom's Choice Award. Her other illustrated books include Aaron's "The Baker's Dozen: A Saint Nicholas Tale." ////////////////////////////////////// "Among the many entries celebrating this event's centennial, librarians and teachers should welcome this historically accurate telling for ages 9 and up." -- Kirkus Reviews (Web site), Aug. 11, 2014 "Beautifully and realistically illustrated." -- Alex Baugh, The Children's War (blog) "Short but intense, heart-warming, full of

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hope, love, brotherhood, and friendship." -- Veronica Marzini, LibriAmoriMiei (blog), Nov. 8, 2014 "A beautiful (and true) tale, with lovely illustrations . . . Great for a readaloud to children!" -- Beth Nolan Connors, Beth's Book-Nook Blog (blog), Nov. 12, 2014 "Delightful . . . A really beautiful rendition of those fantastic events when, in the midst of war, the spirit of Christmas overruled the fighting and peace reigned on the battlefields." -- Elaine Brent, Splashes Into Books (blog), Dec. 7, 2014 "Lovely . . . It evokes the time and place with vivid description and will certainly spark talk of why there is war . . . The artwork is stunning." -- Lynne Vanderveen Smith, children's librarian "Great to use with readers of various ages, especially in a social studies or American history curriculum." -- Karen Biggs-Tucker, co-author, "Transforming Literacy Teaching for the Era of Higher Standards"

Jack Loveless attempts to avert his grandson's questions about his role in World War I by taking him to visit the battlefield graveyards in France. While there he meets a German soldier from the past and vividly remembers the Christmas truce, a miraculous moment when the guns fell silent and horrors of war were temporarily forgotten in a football match. Suggested level: secondary.

It wasn't rockets or artillery that came through the skies one week during the war. It was the horrific force of nature that suddenly put both sides in awe. As

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an unofficial truce began, questions and emotions battled inside every air crewman's mind as they faced masses of Vietnamese civilians outside their protective base perimeters for the first time. Could we trust them not to shoot? Could they trust us not to drop them off in a detention camp? Truces never last, but life changes a bit for all the people involved while they are happening. Sometimes wars are suspended and fighting stops for a while. A holiday that both sides recognize might do it, as happened in the Christmas truce during World War I. Weather might do it, too, as it did in Vietnam in October 1970. The "Typhoon truce" was just as real, and the war stopped for three days in northern I Corps--that area bordering the demilitarized zone separating South Vietnam from the North. The unofficial "Typhoon truce" came because first, Super Typhoon Joan arrived, devastating all the coastal lowlands in I Corps and further up into North Vietnam. Then, less than a week later came Super Typhoon Kate. Kate hit the same area with renewed fury, leaving the entire countryside under water and the people there faced with both war and natural disaster at the same time. No one but the Americans, the foreign warriors fighting throughout the country, had the resources to help the people who lived in the lowlands, and so they did. For the men who took their helicopters out into the unending rain it really made little difference. Perhaps no one would shoot at

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them for a while, but the everyday dangers they faced remained, magnified by the low clouds and poor visibility. The crews got just as tired, maybe more so, than on normal missions. None of that really mattered. The aircrews of the 101st Airborne went out to help anyway, because rescuing people was now their mission. In this book we see how for a brief period during an otherwise vicious war, saving life took precedence over bloody conflict.

Myth, Memory, and the First World War

Poppy Field

The Place Where Peace Was Found

Three Days in Vietnam when Nature Intervened in the War

The Story of the Christmas Truce

Flo of the Somme

*Ten-year-old Johnny eagerly plays at war with the army of nutcracker soldiers his toymaker father whittles for him. He demolishes imaginary foes. But in 1914 Germany looms as the real enemy of Europe, and all too soon Johnny's father is swept up in the war to end all wars. He proudly enlists with his British countrymen to fight at the front in France. The war, though, is nothing like what any soldier or person at*

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*home expected. The letters that arrive from Johnny's dad reveal the ugly realities of combat – and the soldiers he carves and encloses begin to bear its scars. Still, Johnny adds these soldiers to his armies of Huns, Tommies, and Frenchmen, engaging them in furious fights. But when these games seem to foretell his dad's real battles, Johnny thinks he possesses godlike powers over his wooden men. He fears he controls his father's fate, the lives of all the soldiers in no-man's land, and the outcome of the war itself.*

*This Guide will lead military personnel, their families, and other students interested in the lessons of military history through the vast richness of exhibits and artifacts in the Army Museum System, both in the U.S. and abroad. Open to the public, these museums help form a bridge linking today's Army with yesterday and tomorrow for the citizen. The Army's materiel culture comprises over 600,000 artifacts valued at over \$740 million. Lists over 80 museums and includes: hours of operation, address, telephone, directions, background, programs and services, museum publications, and a photo.*

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*Also includes Army Reserve museums.*

*The 22-book American Milestone series is featured as "Retailers Recommended Fabulous Products" in the August 2012 edition of Educational Dealer magazine. This book describes fascinating facts and fun activities your students will love! The American Milestone series are a favorite among teachers nationwide! This book includes ideas for lesson plans, hands-on activities, biographies, fascinating facts and stories. Your students will be amazed as they study the World War I. The American Milestone series meets national and social studies standards. This 28-page book is reproducible and educational. Kids will learn how World War I marked the beginning of "modern warfare" with poison gas, machine guns, tanks, airplanes, and even submarines - and how it forever changed the way battles are fought. A partial Table of Contents includes: A Timeline of Events "The War to End All Wars!": World War I Archduke Franz Ferdinand: The Beginning of the War Taking Sides - Or... Who Fought Whom? The Frontlines Christmas Truce The Red Baron Tank v. Tank*

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*1917 - America Enters the War Uncle Sam Wants You Doughboys  
Woodrow Wilson's Plan for Peace And Much More!*

*A World War I veteran tells his grandson of his experiences  
in 1914, when British and German soldiers declared a truce  
from fighting to celebrate Christmas together. By the  
illustrator of The Yellow Star.*

*One Boy's War*

*The Mercy Dogs of World War 1*

*Truth Gives Strength to Wings*

*War Game*

*Christmas in the Trenches*

*Silent Night*

*It was one of history's most powerful -- yet forgotten -- Christmas stories. It took place in the improbable setting of the mud, cold rain and senseless killing of the trenches of World War I. It happened in spite of orders to the contrary by superiors; it happened in spite of language barriers. And it still stands as the only time in history that peace spontaneously arose from the lower ranks in a major conflict, bubbling up to the officers and temporarily turning sworn enemies into friends. Silent Night, by renowned military historian Stanley Weintraub, magically restores the 1914 Christmas Truce to history. It had been lost in the tide of horror that filled the battlefields of Europe for months and years afterward. Yet in December 1914 the Great War was still young, and the men who suddenly threw down their arms and came*



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*together across the front lines -- to sing carols, exchange gifts and letters, eat and drink and even play friendly games of soccer -- naively hoped that the war would be short-lived, and that they were fraternizing with future friends. It began when German soldiers lit candles on small Christmas trees, and British, French, Belgian and German troops serenaded each other on Christmas Eve. Soon they were gathering and burying the dead, in an age-old custom of truces. But as the power of Christmas grew among them, they broke bread, exchanged addresses and letters and expressed deep admiration for one another. When angry superiors ordered them to recommence the shooting, many men aimed harmlessly high overhead. Sometimes the greatest beauty emerges from deep tragedy. Surely the forgotten Christmas Truce was one of history's most beautiful moments, made all the more beautiful in light of the carnage that followed it. Stanley Weintraub's moving re-creation demonstrates that peace can be more fragile than war, but also that ordinary men can bond with one another despite all efforts of politicians and generals to the contrary.*

*Shooting at the Stars is the moving story of a young British soldier on the front lines during World War I who experiences an unforgettable Christmas Eve. In a letter home to his mother, he describes how, despite fierce fighting earlier from both sides, Allied and German soldiers ceased firing and came together on the battlefield to celebrate the holiday. They sang carols, exchanged gifts, and even lit Christmas trees. But as the holiday came to a close, they returned to their separate trenches to await orders for the war to begin again. John Hendrix wonderfully brings this story to life, interweaving fact and fiction along with his detailed illustrations and hand-lettered text. His story celebrates the humanity and kindness that can persist even during the darkest periods of our history. Back matter includes a glossary, additional information about World War I and the Christmas Truce and its aftermath, and an archival photograph taken during the Truce. Also available by John Hendrix: *Miracle Man Praise for**

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*Shooting at the Stars* **STARRED REVIEWS** "Few titles at this level convey the futility of World War I as well as this one does. A first choice." --School Library Journal, starred review "Timed with the centenary of World War I but a lesson for always, Hendrix's tale pulls young readers close and shows the human side of war." --Kirkus Reviews, starred review

*Recounts the story of the historic Christmas Truce during World War I when soldiers ceased fire and exchanged gifts and holiday traditions, and includes Walter Cronkite's narration of the story.*

**COURAGE WEARS MANY FACES** *The Civil War may be over, but for twelve-year-old Will Page, the pain and bitterness haven't ended. How could they have, when the Yankees were responsible for the deaths of everyone in his entire immediate family? And now Will has to leave his comfortable home in the Shenandoah Valley and live with relatives he has never met, people struggling to eke out a living on their farm in the war-torn Virginia Piedmont. But the worst of it is that Will's uncle Jed had refused to fight for the Confederacy. At first, Will regards his uncle as a traitor -- or at least a coward. But as they work side by side, Will begins to respect the man. And when he sees his uncle stand up for what he believes in, Will realizes that he must rethink his definition of honor and courage.*

*Poems from the First World War*

*The Lost Gardeners of Heligan*

*The Christmas Truce*

*Old Soldiers Never Die*

*The Christmas Truce of 1914*

*Christmas Truce*

**A heartwarming book about unconditional love and one remarkable family. Dyson loves pink, sparkly things. Sometimes he wears**

***dresses. Sometimes he wears jeans. He likes to wear his princess tiara, even when climbing trees. He's a Princess Boy. Inspired by the author's son, and by her own initial struggles to understand, this heartwarming book is a call for tolerance and an end to bullying and judgments. The world is a brighter place when we accept everyone for who they are.***

***"It's Christmas Eve 1914. A group of tired soldiers start singing Stille Nacht. Soldiers the other side of the divide on No Man's Land respond with Silent Night. The following day, soldiers on both sides put down their weapons and celebrate the spirit of Christmas with a friendly football match. In the sequel to the hugely popular 'Where The Poppies Now Grow', 'The Christmas Truce' finds soldiers Ben and Ray shaking hands in friendship with Karl and Lars, a tribute to that remarkable moment in history when, for one day, peace found a place."--Publisher's description.***

***Poems from the First World War is a moving and powerful collection of poems written by soldiers, nurses, mothers, sweethearts and family and friends who experienced WWI from different standpoints. It records the early excitement and patriotism, the bravery, friendship and loyalty of the soldiers, and the heartbreak,***

***disillusionment and regret as the war went on to damage a generation. It includes poems from Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke, Vera Brittain, Eleanor Farjeon, Edward Thomas, Laurence Binyon, John McCrae, Siegfried Sassoon and many more. The Imperial War Museum was founded in 1917 to collect and display material relating to the 'Great War', which was still being fought. Today IWM is unique in its coverage of conflicts, especially those involving Britain and the Commonwealth, from the First World War to the present. They seek to provide for, and to encourage, the study and understanding of the history of modern war and wartime experience.***

***This military history chronicles a time during the Vietnam War when fighting stopped and the 101st Airborne helped those in need during a natural disaster. For three days during the Vietnam War, it wasn't rockets or artillery that came through the skies, but a horrific force of nature that suddenly put both sides in awe. When Super Typhoon Joan arrived in October 1970, an unofficial truce began. Air crewman faced masses of Vietnamese civilians outside their base perimeters for the first time. Could we trust them not to shoot? Could they trust us not to drop them off in a detention***

***camp? Truces never last, but while they do, life changes for everyone involved. The “typhoon truce” stopped the war for three days in northern I Corps—that area bordering the demilitarized zone separating South Vietnam from North. Then, less than a week later, Super Typhoon Kate hit the same area with renewed fury. As the entire countryside was flooded, the people faced war and natural disaster at the same time. No one but the Americans had the resources to help the people who lived in the lowlands, and so they did. The everyday dangers they faced were only magnified by low clouds and poor visibility. But the aircrews of the 101st Airborne went out to help anyway. In this book, we see how, for a brief period during an otherwise vicious war, saving life took precedence over bloody conflict.***

***The Little Hen and the Great War***

***The Best Christmas Present in the World***

***Shades of Gray***

***Lord of the Nutcracker Men***

***Where the Poppies Now Grow***

***The Sergeants Major of the Army***

A new wartime classic from two legends of children's literature! Michael Morpurgo and

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Michael Foreman have teamed up with the British Legion to tell a new story inspired by the history of the poppy. When John McCrae wrote his famous poem "In Flanders Field" among the trenches of war-torn Belgium, neither he nor a local village girl who saves a discarded draft of it could know what enormous power that poem would have on generations to come.

When Alliance forces intercept a Bakuran message to the Emperor pleading for help, Princess Leia, Luke Skywalker, and Han Solo travel to the far-flung Imperial world and encounter its cold-blooded reptilian invaders

Christmas 1941 came little more than two weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The shock—in some cases overseas, elation—was worldwide. While Americans attempted to go about celebrating as usual, the reality of the just-declared war was on everybody's mind. United States troops on Wake Island were battling a Japanese landing force and, in the Philippines, losing the fight to save Luzon. In Japan, the Pearl Harbor strike force returned to Hiroshima Bay and toasted its sweeping success. Across the Atlantic, much of Europe was frozen in grim Nazi occupation. Just three days before Christmas, Churchill surprised Roosevelt with an unprecedented trip to Washington, where they jointly lit the White House Christmas tree. As the two Allied leaders met to map out a winning wartime strategy, the most remarkable Christmas of the century played out across the globe. Pearl Harbor Christmas is a deeply moving and inspiring story about what it was like to live through a holiday season few would ever forget.

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Against an international landscape of power, affluence, control and fear, a young woman defines what it means to find strength, passion and love for life. Her choice to trust herself, and dare to take the first steps away from what she could not allow, led to acts of boldness. With the unexpected help of strangers, and guidance from her alter-ego, her journey led to an unprecedented escape to freedom.

A True Story of Friendship

A Century of Innovation

The Truce at Bakura

A Story of World War 1

When the Guns Fall Silent

Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents

In 1914, four British boys dream of competing for the national soccer team, but join the English infantry instead. On Christmas day, after months of fighting, war becomes a game when German and British soldiers break all the rules to play soccer and exchange presents..

Stubby was a brave soldier, a loyal friend . . . and a dog. From an army training camp to the trenches in France, this is the incredible true story of Sergeant Stubby, the dog who served bravely in World War I—sniffing out gas attacks, catching spies, and winning the hearts of his fellow soldiers.

"Those who live with a mood disorder often wear a social mask of normalcy and calm even though they are living with disruptive psychic pain on the inside. Some

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people may be carrying around a traumatic event from the past that causes great despair, or they may be in constant inner turmoil, yet they present as being "just fine" in appearance and demeanor. 'But You LOOK Just Fine' offers candid counsel and acts as a user-friendly guide of innovative information and compassion to those with mood disorders. It is also a unique tool for mental healthcare providers. The book includes creative coping tools and heartfelt insight from those individuals who know firsthand what it's like to wake up with these disorders." --P. [4] of cover.

A young soldier is fighting in the trenches of wartime France when he finds a hen, skinny, scruffy, and starving. He tucks her into his jacket and takes her with him... A beautiful story of unexpected friendship in the midst of fighting and devastation.

The Stonewatcher

Silent Night, Holy Night

The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce

The Typhoon Truce, 1970

It's All in the Journal

Pearl Harbor Christmas

**Mercy dog, Flo, has more to contend with than racing across the dangerous battlefield of the Somme. Can she get her medical kit to the injured? Can she lead Ray, the stretcher-bearer, and his donkey to them in time? Depicting the key landmarks of the Somme, this story pays tribute to the remarkable bravery of the animals who played their part during World War One.**



**The author had enlisted in 1901 in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and was a reservist when the First World War broke out. He rejoined his old, 2nd Battalion and landed in France with them on 11 August 1914. He went right through the war with the battalion, never missing a battle, winning the D.C.M. and M.M. Here is a typical soldier of the pre-1914 regular army, and this book is a delight, written in his own unpolished manner. Fighting, scrounging, gambling, drinking, dodging fatigues, stolidly enduring bombardment and the hardships of trench warfare, always getting his job done. This is one of the finest of all published memoirs of the Great War, truly a classic of its kind. A tribute to the army that died on the Western Front.**

**Geza is an autistic 25-year-old living with his mother in a small village. Everyone around him wishes him well. They even arrange for him to work in the local quarry and give some purpose to his life. He'll be the Stonewatcher. But none of them really understands the nature of his unique but closed universe and their well-meaning actions almost destroy Geza. Janos Hay's play is written in a simple, ballad-like style, in a freshly minted language that is laced with humour.**

**In late December 1914, German and British soldiers on the western front initiated a series of impromptu, unofficial ceasefires. Enlisted men across No Man's Land abandoned their trenches and crossed enemy lines to sing carols, share food and cigarettes, and even play a little soccer. Collectively known as the Christmas Truce, these fleeting moments of peace occupy a mythical place in remembrances of World War I. Yet new accounts suggest that**

**the heartwarming tale ingrained in the popular imagination bears little resemblance to the truth. In this detailed study, Terri Blom Crocker provides the first comprehensive analysis of both scholarly and popular portrayals of the Christmas Truce from 1914 to present. From books by influential historians to the Oscar-nominated French film Joyeux Noel (2006), this new examination shows how a variety of works have both explored and enshrined this outbreak of peace amid overwhelming violence. The vast majority of these accounts depict the soldiers as acting in defiance of their superiors. Crocker, however, analyzes official accounts as well as private letters that reveal widespread support among officers for the *détentes*. Furthermore, she finds that truce participants describe the temporary ceasefires not as rebellions by disaffected troops but as acts of humanity and survival by professional soldiers deeply committed to their respective causes. The Christmas Truce studies these ceasefires within the wider war, demonstrating how generations of scholars have promoted interpretations that ignored the nuanced perspectives of the many soldiers who fought. Crocker's groundbreaking, meticulously researched work challenges conventional analyses and sheds new light on the history and popular mythology of the War to End All Wars.**

**A World at War, December 1941**

**From the Diary of a German Storm-troop Officer on the Western Front**

**Published in Association with Imperial War Museums**

**Stubby**

## **Ghost Boys**

### **The 3M Story**

**Written to mark the anniversary of the start of the First World War, this book is a touching tribute to honour all those who sacrificed so much for the sake of peace. The book is dedicated to the memory of the great uncles of Hilary and Martin who fell at the Somme in 1916. While the book is written for young children the artwork will have cross generational appeal.**

**A young Welsh soldier fights along the Western Front during World War I, experiencing the horrors of trench warfare before participating in the famed Christmas Truce of 1914.**

**A compilation of 3M voices, memories, facts and experiences from the company's first 100 years.**

**Sixteen-year-old Sydney is overwhelmed by the excitement of the 1914 recruitment campaigns and the bravado of men leaving for the Great War. Bursting with enthusiasm, he runs away to join up, but soon finds himself a long way from home in a frontline trench where reality - and the rats - begin to bite. Told through Sydney's optimistic letters home and his journal, this is his honest portrayal of the disillusionment and degradation**

**of life and death in the trenches of World War I. 'Find room for this  
indictment of the First World War' - Bookseller**

**Peace Lily**

**World War I: The War To End All Wars!**

**Library of Congress Catalog: Motion Pictures and Filmstrips**

**A Song for Will**

**And the Soldiers Sang**

**Shooting at the Stars**

**When a letter is found in a secret drawer discussing a wonderful event  
that happened on Christmas during wartime in 1914, the finder of the  
letter returns it to the addressee who is living in a nursing home.**

**A heartbreaking and powerful story about a black boy killed by a police  
officer, drawing connections through history, from award-winning author  
Jewell Parker Rhodes. Only the living can make the world better. Live and  
make it better. Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who  
mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the  
devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the  
wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets  
another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar  
circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a**

**journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions. Once again Jewell Parker Rhodes deftly weaves historical and socio-political layers into a gripping and poignant story about how children and families face the complexities of today's world, and how one boy grows to understand American blackness in the aftermath of his own death.**

**Unmasking Depression, Anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Panic Disorder and Seasonal Affective Disorder**

**But You LOOK Just Fine**

**The Storm of Steel**

**Truce**

**The World War 1 Battlefield Nurse**

**My Princess Boy**