

Smith, Roland. Elephant Run.

Nick endures servitude, beatings, and more after his British father's plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941, and when his father and others are taken prisoner and Nick is stranded with his friend Mya, they plan a daring escape on elephants, risking their lives to save Nick's father and Mya's brother from a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

Smith, Sherri L. Flygirls.

During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

Wein, Elizabeth. Code Name Verity

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must do to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

Wulffson, Don L. Soldier X.

In 1943 sixteen-year-old Erik experiences the horrors of war when he is drafted into the German army and sent to fight on the Russian front.



Zindel, Paul. The Gadget.

In 1945, having joined his father at Los Alamos, where he and other scientists are working on a secret project to end World War II, thirteen-year-old Stephen becomes caught in a web of secrecy and intrigue.

Zusak, Marcus. The Book Thief.

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.



Annotations courtesy of NoveList, 2013



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CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE

World War II Stories for Teens



Blundell, Judy. What I Saw and How I Lied.
In 1947, with her jovial stepfather Joe back from the war and family life returning to normal, teenage Evie, smitten by the handsome young ex-GI who seems to have a secret hold on Joe, finds herself caught in a complicated web of lies whose devastating outcome change her life and that of her family forever.

Boyne, John. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

Bruchac, Joseph. Code Talker: A novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two.

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Cormier, Robert. Heroes.

After joining the army at fifteen and having his face blown away by a grenade in a battle in France, Francis returns home to Frenchtown hoping to find--and kill--the former childhood hero he feels betrayed him.

Frank, Anne. Diary of a Young Girl.

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic--a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.

Greene, Bette. The Summer of My German Soldier.

Sheltering an escaped prisoner of war is the beginning of some shattering experiences for a twelve-year-old girl in Arkansas.

Harlow, Joan Hiatt. Shadows on the Sea.

In 1942, fourteen-year-old Jill goes to stay with her grandmother on the coast of Maine, where she is introduced to the often gossipy nature of small-town life, and discovers that the war is closer than she thought.

Hughes, Dean. Soldier Boys.

Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge.

Hunter, Bernice. The Girls They Left Behind.

Drawn from the author's memories of being a teenager in World War II, a novel of the life of a seventeen-year-old girl named Beryl tells of daily life in 1943 Toronto and the lonely world of the home front as the girls are left behind to do their part in the war effort and wait for the boy's return.

Mazer, Harry. A Boy at War.

While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack and through the chaos of the subsequent days tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell. Sequels: A Boy No More; Heroes Don't Run. See also: The Last Mission

Napoli, Donna Jo. Stones in Water.

After being taken by German soldiers from a local movie theater along with other Italian boys including his Jewish friend, Roberto is forced to work in Germany, escapes into the Ukrainian winter, before desperately trying to make his way back home to Venice.

Salisbury, Graham. Eyes of the Emperor.

Based on the true story of Hawaiian soldiers of Japanese descent following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Eddy Okubo has an evolving understanding that Japanese Americans are no longer trusted, even if they are serving in the U.S. armed forces.

