So, You Have to Talk About War?

Tips from Linda Granfield
author of The Vimy Oaks, The Road to Afghanistan, Remembering John McCrae and The Unknown Soldier

We can’t ignore war.

It is on screen in our family rooms and commercial theatres, on billboards — in our media outlets of every kind. Kids play highly sophisticated video games. Music, art, comic books, the evening news — children around the world hear about and see war daily.

Let’s face it — nobody wants to just sit on a comfortable couch with a child and talk about a subject like war. Snacks and milk don’t make the job any easier, either. And it is a job to discuss war, death or any other difficult topic that is part of our lives. But maybe a child you know has asked you about war. What now?

Here are some things to consider before, during and after your discussion.

- Don’t run away from the topic when you’ve been asked. The child is asking because something has provoked his or her question. You may need to educate yourself about the topic before trying to explain it. Meanwhile, you can acknowledge and ask about the child’s concerns, in order to buy some time to gather more information yourself.
• Remember that there is no pat answer — and saying “war is terrible” and “no one should take part” can lead to other questions, such as, “So why did Grandad fight?” Educate yourself on the causes — there is plenty of information available in libraries and online. (You may wish to refer to the Canadian Children’s Book Centre’s List of World War I and World War II books attached for a selection of good reading materials.)

• Look to your own family history for help with a war discussion. Who in your family is/was a veteran? A wartime nurse? Share what facts you know about these veterans. (Don’t forget that much of our family history during wartime comes from those — usually women — who stayed at home and provided other war services of great importance: farming, sewing/knitting, making parachutes, and so on). People at home might have experienced rationing, conscription and victory bond drives, or might have collected tin, sent Red Cross packages, written/emailed soldiers in the field, and so on.

• Display photographs and medals of your family’s veterans all year, not just on Remembrance Day. The visibility and familyarity of these pieces provides comfort, making them part of family discussions any time of the year.

• Remember that veterans were not always in wars in the way children might imagine. Many were stretcher bearers, doctors, medics, clerks, radio operators, cooks, engineers and so on. Children might ask what they did and how that supported the fighting troops. Their experiences can be interesting to children as well.

• Watch for opportunities to speak to the veterans in your community. Remember that not all veterans have children to share their life stories with, and many may be willing to share. Be open to those in your neighbourhood who might want to talk about their experiences with your family.

• Contact your local Royal Canadian Legion Branch and ask if there is a veteran you can invite to your child’s classroom.
• Many of the veterans of the war in Afghanistan are young — only in their twenties and thirties, and some of these veterans are women. They might enjoy visiting your child’s classroom. IMPORTANT TIP: It’s worth taking time off from work to be there yourself when a veteran visits the school. YOU will come away with more insights about real conflict and be more up to the task when asked, “Why is there war?”

• If you have trouble knowing what to say to a veteran, remember that discussing war is not all about killing. It isn’t. It’s also about people helping one another, providing for others, bringing out the best in each other. More than one veteran has told me that surviving the war was due to good training, a good sense of humour and good luck. You will find stories that reflect all three points.

• As a caregiver, become aware of those in the school or community who have come to Canada from war-torn countries. There is much to learn from chats with new Canadians. Often, these children will not feel they can open up about what they’ve experienced unless they know it is okay to talk about war. I recall a specific time I visited a school for Remembrance Day discussions and learned that after I left one child decided to share her experiences of living in Bosnia during the conflict there. Her classmates were riveted — and warmly understanding. This was ground-breaking for the girl and the other students.

• Try not to make children feel that world peace can be achieved if only they try hard enough. This is unrealistic, and I’ve heard it suggested too many times. Helping children achieve peace on a more manageable scale is more important: no bullying in the schoolyard, no pinching or yelling at the dinner table, more sharing of possessions.

• Channel some of their youthful energy into digging and planting a Remembrance Garden in your yard or the school/community centre grounds. Plant bulbs in the autumn that will come into bloom in April for Vimy Ridge Day: a nice symbol of new life and new attitudes.

• Put a poppy drawing in your window, not just in November — you’ll be surprised how much interesting and helpful discussion results from this action alone.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Grade  / Ages</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>And in the Morning</td>
<td>Written by John Wilson</td>
<td>Key Porter Books, 2010 © 2003</td>
<td>978-1554702640</td>
<td>Grade 7 / Ages 12 and up</td>
<td>Young Adult Fiction</td>
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<td>At Vimy Ridge: Canada’s Greatest World War I Victory</td>
<td>Written by Hugh Brewster</td>
<td>Scholastic Canada, 2006</td>
<td>978-0439949828</td>
<td>Grades 4-5 / Ages 9 and up</td>
<td>Non-Fiction</td>
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<td>A Bear in War</td>
<td>Written by Stephanie Innes and Harry Endrulat</td>
<td>Illustrated by Brian Deines</td>
<td>Pajama Press, 2012</td>
<td>Grade 3 / Ages 5-12</td>
<td>Non-Fiction</td>
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<td>A Brave Soldier</td>
<td>Written and illustrated by Nicolas Debon</td>
<td>Groundwood Books, 2002</td>
<td>978-0888994813</td>
<td>Grade 3 / Ages 8 and up</td>
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<td>Brothers Far From Home: The World War I Diary of Eliza Bates</td>
<td>Written by Jean Little</td>
<td>Scholastic Canada, 2003</td>
<td>978-0439969000</td>
<td>Grades 5-7 / Ages 9-12</td>
<td>Junior Fiction</td>
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<td>Charlie Wilcox</td>
<td>Written by Sharon E. McKay</td>
<td>Penguin Canada, 2003</td>
<td>978-014301471</td>
<td>Grades 7-8 / Ages 12-15</td>
<td>Young Adult Fiction</td>
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<td>Charlie Wilcox’s Great War</td>
<td>Written by Sharon E. McKay</td>
<td>Penguin Canada, 2003</td>
<td>978-014301471</td>
<td>Grades 7-8 / Ages 12-15</td>
<td>Young Adult Fiction</td>
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<td>Daughter of War</td>
<td>Written by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch</td>
<td>Fitzhenry &amp; Whiteside, 2008</td>
<td>978-1554550449</td>
<td>Grade 7 / Ages 12 and up</td>
<td>Young Adult Fiction</td>
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<td>Forget-Me-Not</td>
<td>Written by Maxine Trottier</td>
<td>Illustrated by Nancy Keating</td>
<td>Tuckamore Books, 2008</td>
<td>Grades 3-4 / Ages 7-12</td>
<td>Picture Book</td>
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<td>Generals Die in Bed: A Story from the Trenches</td>
<td>Written by Charles Yale Harrison</td>
<td>Annick Press, 2002 © 1930</td>
<td>978-1550377309</td>
<td>Grade 8 / Ages 14 and up</td>
<td>Young Adult Fiction</td>
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<td>If I Die Before I Wake: The Flu Epidemic Diary of Fiona Macgregor</td>
<td>Written by Jean Little</td>
<td>Scholastic Canada, 2007</td>
<td>978-0439988377</td>
<td>Grades 5-7 / Ages 9-12</td>
<td>Junior Fiction</td>
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<td>A Kind of Courage</td>
<td>Written by Colleen Heffernan</td>
<td>Orca Book Publishers, 2005</td>
<td>978-1551433585</td>
<td>Grades 7-8 / Ages 12 and up</td>
<td>Young Adult Fiction</td>
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<td>Lone Hawk: The Story of Air Ace</td>
<td>Written and illustrated by John Lang</td>
<td>Puffin Canada, 2011</td>
<td>978-0143174660</td>
<td>Grades 3-4 / Ages 8-12</td>
<td>Non-Fiction</td>
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Lord of the Nutcracker Men
Written by Iain Lawrence
Delacorte Press, 2001
ISBN 978-0385729246
Grade 5 / Ages 11 and up
Category: Intermediate Fiction

Megiddo’s Shadow
Written by Arthur Slade
HarperTrophyCanada, 2006
ISBN 978-0006395683
Grades 6-8 / Ages 12 and up
Category: Young Adult Fiction

A Nation is Born: World War I and Independence, 1910-1929
(How Canada Became Canada)
Written by Sheila Nelson
Mason Crest Publishers, 2006
ISBN 978-1422200063
Grades 6-8 / Ages 11-14
Category: Non-Fiction

No Safe Harbour: The Halifax Explosion Diary of Charlotte Blackburn
(Dear Canada)
Written by Julie Lawson
Scholastic Canada, 2006
ISBN 978-0439969307
Grades 5-7 / Ages 9-12
Category: Junior Fiction

Passchendaele: Canada’s Triumph and Tragedy on the Fields of Flanders
Written by Norman Leach
Coteau Books, 2008
ISBN 978-0439988339
Grades 9-10 / Ages 14 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

A Poppy is to Remember
Written by Heather Patterson
Illustrated by Ron Lightburn
North Winds Press/Scholastic, 2004
ISBN 978-0439967860
Grades 1-3 / Ages 5-8
Category: Non-Fiction

Prisoners in the Promised Land: The Ukrainian Internment Diary of Anya Soloniuk
(Dear Canada)
Written by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch
Scholastic Canada, 2007
ISBN 978-0439956925
Grades 5-7 / Ages 9-12
Category: Junior Fiction

Remembering John McCrae: Soldier, Doctor, Poet
Written by Linda Granfield
Scholastic Canada, 2009
ISBN 978-0439935616
Grades 4-5 / Ages 8-12
Category: Non-Fiction

Shot at Dawn
(I Am Canada)
Written by John Wilson
Scholastic Canada, 2011
ISBN 978-0545985956
Grades 5-7 / Ages 9-12
Category: Junior Fiction

Silent in an Evil Time: The Brave War of Edith Cavell
Written by Jack Batten
Tundra Books, 2007
ISBN 978-0887767371
Grades 5-6 / Ages 12 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

The War to End All Wars: The Story of World War I
Written by Jack Batten
Tundra Books, 2009
ISBN 978-0887768798
Grade 8 / Ages 13 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

The Unknown Soldier
Written by Linda Granfield
Scholastic Canada, 2008
ISBN 978-0439935586
Grades 3-4 / Ages 8 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

Where Poppies Grow: A World War I Companion
Written by Linda Granfield
Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2005
ISBN 978-1550051469
Grade 5 / Ages 8 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

About the Canadian Children’s Book Centre

The Canadian Children’s Book Centre (CCBC) is a national, not-for-profit organization founded in 1976. We are dedicated to encouraging, promoting and supporting the reading, writing, illustrating and publishing of Canadian books for young readers. Our programs, publications, and resources help teachers, librarians, booksellers and parents select the very best for young readers.

At the heart of our work at the Canadian Children’s Book Centre is our love for the books that get published in Canada each year, and our commitment to raising awareness of the quality and variety of Canadian books for young readers.

The Canadian Children’s Book Centre reaches well over half a million people each year, and we’re still growing. Please check out our programs and publications, and see how we can help you, and you can help us, to bring Canadian books and young readers together.

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The work of the Canadian Children’s Book Centre is made possible through the generous support of our members, volunteers, sponsors, funders and the continuing assistance of the Canada Council, Writing and Publishing Section, and the Public Readings Program.
The Canadian Children’s Book Centre’s
List of World War II Books for Kids and Teens

Anna’s Goat
Written by Janice Kulyk Keefer
Illustrated by Janet Wilson
Orca Book Publishers, 2000
ISBN 978-1551431536
Grades 1-2 / Ages 6-9
Category: Picture Books

Attack on Pearl Harbor
Written by Shelley Tanaka
Illustrated by David Craig
Scholastic Canada, 2001
ISBN Attack on Pearl Harbor
Grades 4-6 / Ages 9 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

Behind Enemy Lines
(I Am Canada)
Written by Carol Matas
Scholastic Canada
ISBN 978-0-545990660
Grades 5-6 / Ages 9-14
Category: Junior Fiction

Brave Deeds: How One Family Daved Many from the Nazis
Written by Ann Alma
Groundwood Books, 2008
ISBN 978-0888997913
Grades 5-6 / Ages 10-12
Category: Non-Fiction

The Darkest Corner of the World
Written by Urve Tamberg
Dancing Cat Books, 2012
ISBN 978-1770862142
Grades 7-9 / Ages 12-15
Category: Young Adult Fiction

Day of the Flying Fox: The True Story of World War II Pilot Charley Fox
Written by Steve Pitt
Sandcastle/Dundurn Press, 2008
ISBN 978-1550028089
Grades 3-4 / Ages 8-13
Category: Non-Fiction

The Desert Hawk
Written by Barbara Hehner
HarperTrophyCanada, 2005
ISBN 978-0006394785
Grades 7-8 / Ages 10 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

The Diary of Laura’s Twin
(Holocaust Remembrance Book for Young Readers)
Written by Kathy Kacer
Second Story Press, 2008
ISBN 978-1897187395
Grade 5 / Ages 9-12
Category: Junior Fiction

Dieppe: Canada’s Darkest Day of World War II
Written by Hugh Brewster
Scholastic Canada, 2009
ISBN 978-0545994200
Grades 5-6 / Ages 10 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

Ellen: Waiting Time
(Our Canadian Girl, Book 3)
Written by Dorothy Joan Harris
Penguin Canada, 2005
ISBN 978-0143050056
Grades 3-4 / Ages 8-12
Category: Early Chapter Books

Far From Home
(Canadian Flyer Adventures)
Written by Frieda Wishinsky
Illustrated by Leanne Franson
Maple Tree Press, 2008
ISBN 978-1897349434
Grades 3-4 / Ages 6-9
Category: Early Chapter Books

Flames of the Tiger
Written by John Wilson
Kids Can Press, 2003
ISBN 978-1553376194
Grades 6-7 / Ages 11-14
Category: Intermediate Fiction

The Flight of the Tiger Moth
Written by Mary Woodbury
Coteau Books, 2007
ISBN 978-1550503647
Grade 6 / Ages 11-14
Category: Intermediate Fiction

Fly Boy
Written by Eric Walters
Puffin Canada, 2011
ISBN 978-1897174241
Grades 5-6 / Ages 11-14
Category: Intermediate Fiction

A Foreign Field
Written by Gillian Chan
Kids Can Press, 2002
ISBN 978-1553373506
Grade 9 / Ages 14 and up
Category: Young Adult Fiction

Forget-Me-Not
Written by Barbara Haworth-Attard
HarperTrophyCanada, 2005
ISBN 978-0006395492
Grades 6-7 / Ages 12 and up
Category: Young Adult Fiction

Four Steps to Death
Written by John Wilson
Kids Can Press, 2005
ISBN 978-1553377054
Grades 6-8 / Ages 12-16
Category: Young Adult Fiction

The Girls They Left Behind
Written by Bernice Thurman Hunter
Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2005
ISBN 978-1550419276
Grades 7-9 / Ages 12-16
Category: Young Adult Fiction

Good-bye Marianne
Written by Irene N. Watts
Illustrated by Kathryn E. Shoemaker
Tundra Books, 2008
ISBN 978-0887768309
Grades 5-6 / Ages 9-13
Category: Graphic Novels

The Greenies
Written by Myra Paperny
HarperTrophyCanada, 2005
ISBN 978-0006393559
Grades 5-6 / Ages 9-13
Category: Graphic Novels

Guardian Angel House
(Holocaust Remembrance Book for Young Readers)
Written by Kathy Clark
Second Story Press, 2009
ISBN 978-1897187586
Grade 5 / Ages 9-13
Category: Junior Fiction

Hana’s Suitcase Anniversary Album
(Holocaust Remembrance Book for Young Readers)
Written by Karen Levine
Second Story Press, 2012
ISBN 978-1926920368
Grades 4-5 / Ages 9 and up
Category: Non-Fiction
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<th>Publisher</th>
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<td>Hiding Edith</td>
<td>Kathy Kacer</td>
<td>Second Story Press, 2006</td>
<td>978-1897187067</td>
<td>4-6 / 9-13</td>
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<td>Hope’s War</td>
<td>Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch</td>
<td>Dundurn Press, 2001</td>
<td>978-1895681192</td>
<td>7-8 / 12</td>
<td>Early Chapter Books</td>
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<td>Jesper</td>
<td>Carol Matas</td>
<td>Scholastic Canada, 0</td>
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<td>5 / 9-14</td>
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<td>Kanada</td>
<td>Eva Wiseman</td>
<td>Tundra Books, 2006</td>
<td>978-0887767296</td>
<td>6-8 / 12-16</td>
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<td>Keeping Secrets</td>
<td>Jean Booker</td>
<td>Scholastic Canada, 2011</td>
<td>978-1443102346</td>
<td>6 / 9-13</td>
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<td>Lisa</td>
<td>Carol Matas</td>
<td>Scholastic Canada, 0</td>
<td>978-0439956383</td>
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<td>Making Bombs for Hitler</td>
<td>Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch</td>
<td>Scholastic Canada, 2012</td>
<td>978-1443107303</td>
<td>5-7 / 9-14</td>
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<td>Man Overboard!</td>
<td>Curtis Parkinson</td>
<td>Tundra Books, 2012</td>
<td>978-1770492981</td>
<td>5-7 / 10-14</td>
<td>Junior Fiction</td>
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<td>Naomi’s Tree</td>
<td>Joy Kogawa</td>
<td>Fitzhenry &amp; Whiteside, 2008</td>
<td>978-1554550555</td>
<td>3 / 9-11</td>
<td>Picture Books</td>
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Canadian World War II Books for Kids and Teens
Reading Levels are listed by Grade, Interest Levels are listed by Age
Stolen Child
Written by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch
Scholastic Canada, 2010
ISBN 978-0545986120
Grades 4-5 / Ages 9-12
Category: Junior Fiction

Tapestry of Hope: Holocaust Writing for Young People
Compiled by Lillian Boraks-Nemetz and Irene N. Watts
Tundra Books, 2003
ISBN 978-0887766381
Grades 7-9 / Ages 11 and up
Category: Intermediate Fiction

Tell No One Who You Are: The Hidden Childhood of Régine Miller
Written by Walter Buchignani
Tundra Books, 2008
ISBN 978-0887768170
Grade 4 / Ages 9 and up
Category: Junior Fiction

Ten Marks and a Train Ticket: Benno’s Escape to Freedom (Holocaust and Hope Testimonial)
Written by Susy Goldstein, Gina Hamilton and Wendy Share
The League for Human Rights of B’nai Brith Canada, 2008
ISBN 978-0978417406
Grades 5-6 / Ages 9 and up
Category: Junior Fiction

The Thought of High Windows
Written by Lynne Kositsky
Kids Can Press, 2004
ISBN 978-1553376217
Grades 7-9 / Ages 12 and up
Category: Young Adult Fiction

The Tunnel King: The True Story of Wally Floody and the Great Escape
Written by Barbara Hehner
HarperTrophyCanada, 2004
ISBN 978-006394778
Grades 4-6 / Ages 10 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

Turned Away: The World War II Diary of Devorah Bernstein
(Dear Canada)
Written by Carol Matas
Scholastic Canada, 2005
ISBN 978-0439969468
Grades 5-7 / Ages 9-12
Category: Junior Fiction

Ultra Hush-Hush: Espionage and Special Missions (Outwitting the Enemy: Stories from the Second World War)
Written by Stephen Shapiro
Illustrated by David Craig
Annick Press, 2003
ISBN 978-1550377781
Grades 6-7 / Ages 12 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

What World is Left
Written by Monique Polak
Orca Book Publishers, 2008
ISBN 978-1551438474
Grades 7-8 / Ages 12 and up
Category: Young Adult Fiction

When the Spirits Dance
Written by Larry Loyie with Constance Brissenden
Theytus Books, 2006
ISBN 978-1894778404
Grade 3 / Ages 8-12
Category: Non-Fiction

When the War is Over
Written by Martha Attema
Orca Book Publishers, 2002
ISBN 978-1551432403
Grade 7 / Ages 12 and up
Category: Young Adult Fiction

Whispers from the Camps (Whispers)
Written by Kathy Kacer and Sharon E. McKay
Puffin Canada, 2009
ISBN 978-0143312529
Grade 7 / Ages 12 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

Whispers from the Ghettos (Whispers)
Written by Kathy Kacer and Sharon E. McKay
Puffin Canada, 2009
ISBN 978-0143312512
Grade 7 / Ages 12 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

Whispers in Hiding (Whispers)
Written by Kathy Kacer and Sharon E. McKay
Puffin Canada, 2010
ISBN 978-0143312536
Grade 7 / Ages 12 and up
Category: Non-Fiction

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Canadian World War II Books for Kids and Teens  3
Reading Levels are listed by Grade, Interest Levels are listed by Age
“BOOKMARK!” HIGHLIGHTS BOOKS FOR A VARIETY OF GRADE LEVELS AROUND A PARTICULAR THEME.

In preparation for Remembrance Day, Bookmark! offers a range of books on war, conflict, peace and remembrance in many parts of the world, compiled by CCBC Library Coordinator Meghan Howe. For the CCBC’s World War I reading list (compiled in 2010) and World War II reading list (compiled in 2011), visit www.bookcentre.ca/resources_librarians.

The Worlds of War

PICTURE BOOKS AND EARLY READERS FOR KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

A Bear in War
written by Stephanie Innes and Harry Endrullat
illustrated by Brian Deines
Orca Book Publishers, 2008

The true story of how a tiny stuffed bear named Teddy becomes an enduring memem, to of a Canadian family’s love during World War I is being re-released in September 2012. Teddy now lives in a glass display case at the Canadian War Museum and is one of its most beloved exhibits.

The Little Yellow Bottle
written by Angèle Delaunois
translated by Sarah Cummins
illustrated by Élisabeth Eudes-Pascal
Formac Publishing, 2010

Marwa and Ahmad’s lives are changed forever when Ahmad unknowingly picks up a bomb while they are playing. Both children struggle to recover and regain hope, despite their grave injuries. This title is also available in French as Une petite bouteille jaune.

A Poppy Is to Remember
written by Heather Patterson
illustrated by Ron Lightburn
Scholastic Canada, 2007

Soothing words aimed specifically at young children explain the symbolism of the poppy. This gorgeous book, with paintings by award-winning illustrator Ron Lightburn, includes information on Canada’s wartime and peacekeeping endeavours, and the notable poem, In Flanders Fields.

Canada’s Wars: An Illustrated History
written by Jonathan Webb
Scholastic Canada, 2010

From the 1884 Nile Expedition to the Gulf War, Canadian soldiers have fought and died in many wars. This overview offers detailed stories of combat and the home front, and of heroes both known and unknown. Stunning photograph, paintings, archival posters and artifacts brings these many historical moments to life.

The Kids Book of Canada at War (Kids Books of…)
written by Elizabeth MacLeod
illustrated by John Marta
Kids Can Press, 2007

This book looks at Canada’s battles and wars and at the people who fought them. Meet heroic Canadians, learn about the technology of war and read chilling first-person accounts from soldiers on the battlefields. Illustrations, photographs, sidebars, timeline and index included.

Shimmerdogs
written by Dianne Linden
Illustrations by Poppy Press, 2008

Seven-year-old Mike has experienced much in his life—he is the son of a Canadian peacekeeper in Bosnia, he’s living with his uncle and going to a new school, and his elder neighbour dies. When he learns about shimmerdogs—dogs brought to earth from the moon to bring peace—he begins to heal. A prequel to Peacekeepers.

Shot at Dawn: World War I
written by John Wilson
Scholastic Canada, 2011

A shell-shocked soldier is sentenced to death for desertion. During the night before his execution, he reconvenes the events leading up to his arrest. Wilson has written extensively on war. His other books include And in the Morning, Battle Flags, Flags of our Fathers and Death on the River.

The Unknown Soldier
written by Linda Granfield
Scholastic Canada, 2008

“Loved and were loved, and now we lie / In Flanders fields.” Learn how unknown soldiers are honoured worldwide with monuments, memorials, tombs, tributes and symbols. See how genetic identification leads to fewer “unknowns.” Includes photos, artwork, glossary, index and timeline.

Meat Eater: A Vietnamese Orphan’s Rescue from War
written by Marsha Fordhul Syrupch
Pajama Press, 2011

The last Canadian airlift operation to leave Saigon arrived on Toronto April 13, 1975. Son Thi Anh Tuyet was one of 57 orphans on that flight. Based on personal interviews and enhanced with archive photos, Tuyet’s story of the Saigon orphanage and her flight to Canada is an emotional and suspenseful journey.

When Elephants Fight: The Lives of Children in Conflict in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda
written by Eric Walters and Adrian Bradbury
Orca Book Publishers, 2008

Meet five children whose lives are affected by conflict raging in their respective nations of Afghanistan, Bosnia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda. Maps and facts on regional history, and causes and results of the conflicts lend context to their stories.

Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees
written by Deborah Ellis
Groundwood Books, 2009
Twenty-three Iraqi children, aged eight to 19, confide what it means to be a refugee. An introduction offers a historical overview and sets the context for the children’s accounts. A glossary, a map and further-information suggestions are included. See also Ellis’s Off to War: Voices of Soldiers’ Children.

Parschendael: Canada’s Triumph and Tragedy on the Fields of Flanders
written by Norman Leach
Coteau Books, 2008

The Battle of Parschendael has come to epitomize the horrors of World War I, but also uncommon leadership and extraordinary heroism. This thoroughly illustrated, accessible account of the battle tells the story of Canada’s triumph and tragedy. Look for Leach’s new book, 1812: Three Voices in the fall of this year.

Thunder Over Kandahar
written by Sharon E. McKay
photos by Rafal Gerszak
Annick Press, 2010

When the Taliban burn down their village school, Tamanna and Yasmine decide to flee. Separated after travelling through dangerous mountain passes, they lose the one thing that has helped them survive—each other. Features stunning black and white photos, a list of Afghan terms and a historical timeline. See also McKay’s War Brothers about child soldiers in Uganda.