

## Reading Lists for America in Wartime Resource Package Grades K through 4

The resources in this section can be used with the America in Wartime Resource Packet for grades K through 4.

### Books

#### Nonfiction and Biography

- Brave Like Me, 2016 by Barbara Kerley (Author).  
When someone is serving our country far from home, everyone in their family has to be brave. This book speaks to all kids in this situation in telling the story of a boy and a girl with parents away on duty.
- If You Lived at The Time of The American Revolution, 1998 by Kay Moore (Author), Daniel O'Leary (Illustrator).  
Before 1775, thirteen colonies in America belonged to England. This book tells about the fight to be free and independent.
- If You Lived at The Time of The Civil War, 1994 by Kay Moore (Author), Anni Matsick (Illustrator).  
This book tells you what it was like to live at the time of the Civil War from 1861 to 1865.
- Jefferson Barracks: Images of America, 2011 by Sandie Grassino (Author), Maj. (Ret.) Art Schuermann (Author).  
Since it was founded in 1826, Jefferson Barracks has stood for nearly two centuries as a symbol for many aspects of America's history. It played a huge role in all of the countries conflict and remains an important depository of the Nation's history.
- Pearl Harbor: Ready to Read Level 3, 2001 by Stephen Krensky (Author), Larry Day (Illustrator).  
Written in simple yet clear language, the book teaches readers about the political scene before and after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese in December 1941, and how this event shaped our country's place in the world.

#### Fiction

- America at War: Poems Selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, 2008 by Lee Bennett Hopkins and Stephen Alcorn (Editors).  
More than 50 poems exploring war, from the American Revolution to the Iraq War. Includes Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, e. e. cummings.
- The Metropolitans, 2017 by Carol Goodman (Author).

It's December 7, 1941, in New York City, and four 13-year-olds (soon to be known as THE METROPOLITANS) find themselves at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. When a creepy man does a smash-and-grab on a manuscript page just as the announcement of war breaks out, the kids are swept up in trying to foil a Nazi conspiracy to kill the population of New York, in which the Nazis seem to be getting some help from magical forces.

- Paper Wishes, 2016 by Lois Sepahban (Author).  
After the attack on Pearl Harbor, a young girl and her Japanese-American neighbors are ordered to leave their homes on Bainbridge Island near Seattle and relocate to a dusty "prison-village".
- Pink and Say, 1994 by Patricia Polacco (Author).  
He was wounded in a fierce battle and left for dead in a pasture somewhere in Georgia when Pinkus found him. Pinkus' skin was the color of polished mahogany, and he was flying Union colors like the wounded boy. He picked him up out of the field and brought him to where the black soldier's mother, Moe Moe Bay, lived. She had soft, gentle hands and cared for him and her Pink.
- Year of the Jungle, 2013 by Suzanne Collins (Author), James Proimos (Illustrator).  
When a young girl's father leaves for Vietnam, she struggles to understand what this means for her and her family. What is the jungle like? Will her father be safe? When will he return? The months slip by, marked by the passing of the familiar holidays and the postcards that her father sends. With each one, he feels more and more distant, until Suzy isn't sure she'd even recognize her father anymore.

### **Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous**

- American Revolution by Kids Discover  
The main battles and key leaders of the American Revolution are the focus of this issue, which starts off with a look at the strained relationship between the colonies and Britain at the end of the French and Indian War in 1763. The crown thought the colonies should pay Britain's war debts, and instituted the famous Tea Tax, among others, but the colonists railed against "taxation without representation"- and a series of dramatic incidents, like the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party, resulted in both sides formally taking up arms in 1775.  
<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/american-revolution-for-kids/>
- Civil War by Kids Discover  
After years of disputes, history was made when 11 southern states seceded from the Union, which launched the Civil War. This issue brings the battles and heroes of this war to life with vivid descriptions and photos. They'll spend time learning about how the difference of opinion over slavery and states' rights, along with the election of Northerner Abraham Lincoln in 1860, ultimately culminated in what is called the first "modern war."  
<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/civil-war-for-kids/>
- Revolutionary Women by Kids Discover  
Women did not hold the front lines during the War of Independence, but they greatly contributed to efforts to keep soldiers fed on the battlefield, lent their voices to political debates, and generally kept the home fires burning. From patriots like Deborah Samson, who actually served secretly in the army, to loyalists like Margaret Draper, who kept publishing the Boston News-Letter after her husband's death, this evenhanded account of how women influenced the war in big and small ways, laying the groundwork for the suffrage movement that followed much later.

<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/revolutionary-women/>

- World War I by Kids Discover  
There was nothing “great” about the “Great War”, later named World War I. This issue describes the grim reality of soldiers’ lives, as well as the lives of civilians, during wartime. The path to war is clearly charted here, along with the developments (machine guns, poison gas, and airplanes) that made this a whole new kind of war. Trench warfare was also new, and readers will learn how the Allies dug in and hung on along the Western Front; they’ll also read about the war’s several other fronts, some as far away as East Africa.  
<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/world-war-i-for-kids/>
- World War II by Kids Discover  
The deadliest conflict of the 20th century is brought into sharp focus in this powerhouse issue, starting with a recap of the political strong-arming that paved the way for World War II. For readers intrigued by this era of American history, the photos and accounts captured here will be hard to put down. They’ll gain a clear understanding of the events that triggered the war, learn how the Nazis and Fascists shaped themselves into the Axis Powers, and read a gripping account of Pearl Harbor. Details about Hollywood’s take on World War II, are also featured, as well as inspiring stories about the women who stepped into men’s shoes to keep the country running.  
<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/world-war-ii-for-kids/>

### Online Links

- Americans in Wartime Museum<http://www.nmaw.org/>
- Life on the Homefront during WWII  
[https://www.ducksters.com/history/world\\_war\\_ii/ww2\\_us\\_home\\_front.php](https://www.ducksters.com/history/world_war_ii/ww2_us_home_front.php)
- National Civil War Museum  
<https://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/>
- National WWI Museum  
<https://www.theworldwar.org/>
- National WWII Museum  
<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/>
- The Pritzker Military Museum: This resource has an outstanding collection of artifacts and information as well as rotating exhibits you can view online  
<http://www.pritzkermilitary.org/>
- Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park  
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/the-wwii-home-front.htm>

### Background information for the Educator

- Scholastic Inc: A Guide to teaching and talking about war with books to children and teens.  
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/guide-teaching-and-talking-about-war-books-children-and-teens/>

## Reading Lists for America in Wartime Resource Package Grades 5 through 8

The resources in this section can be used with the America in Wartime Resource Packet for grades 5 through 8.

### Books

#### Non-fiction and Biography

- The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Readers Edition, 2015 by William Kamkwamba (Author), Bryan Mealer (Author), Anna Hymas (Illustrator).  
When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill.
- Feynman, 2013 by Jim Ottaviani (Author), Leland Myrick (Illustrator).  
In this graphic novel biography, the author presents the larger-than-life exploits of Nobel-winning quantum physicist, adventurer, musician, world-class raconteur, and one of the greatest minds of the twentieth century: Richard Feynman.
- Genius!: The Most Astonishing Inventions Of All Time, 2015 by Deborah Kespert (Author).  
This solid overview of technological milestones features over twenty inventors and their creations. At least two spreads about each give basic facts, about, say, Stephanie Kwolek and Kevlar, followed by expansions and updates to the technology, with numerous photos and other illustrations throughout.
- Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women, 2002 by Catherine Thimmesh (Author), Melissa Sweet (Illustrator).  
In kitchens and living rooms, in garages and labs and basements, even in converted chicken coops, women and girls have invented ingenious innovations that have made our lives simpler and better. Their creations are some of the most enduring (the windshield wiper) and best loved (the chocolate chip cookie). What inspired these women, and just how did they turn their ideas into realities?
- Invent It!, 2017 by Rob Beattie (Author).  
What should kids do when they have an idea? Put it into action! This fun and informative book takes budding inventors through the entire creative process—from brainstorming, designing, and prototyping, to patenting, manufacturing, and marketing. It is packed with all the tools and tips needed to turn a concept into reality!
- Inventor, Engineer, and Physicist Nikola Tesla, 2017 by Katie Marsico (Author).  
As a child, Nikola Tesla saw a picture of a waterfall and imagined an invention that would turn the water's energy into electricity. Later, he invented the water wheel, which turned water power into usable energy. As a young adult, Tesla spent his spare time experimenting with electrical equipment. He worked for inventor Thomas Edison, improving power plants and machines that ran on direct current electricity.
- Mistakes That Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions & How They Came to Be, 1994 by Charlotte Foltz Jones (Author), John O'Brien (Illustrator).  
Popsicles, potato chips, Silly Putty, Velcro, and many other familiar things have fascinating stories behind them. In fact, dozens of products and everyday items had surprisingly haphazard

beginnings.

- The Next Wave: The Quest to Harness the Power of the Oceans (Scientists in the Field Series), 2018 by Elizabeth Rusch (Author).  
Transferring ocean wave action into electricity (without damaging collection equipment or harming marine life) is a significant engineering challenge with a potentially big financial payoff. Rusch captures the determined, entrepreneurial spirit of the profiled engineers as well as the need for creative problem-solving and ingenuity.
- Shoes for Everyone: A Story about Jan Matzeliger, 1986 by Barbara Mitchell (Author).  
A biography of the half-Dutch/half-black Surinamese man who, despite hardships and prejudice, invented a shoe-lasting machine that revolutionized the shoe industry.
- So You Want to Be an Inventor?, 2005 by Judith St. George (Author), David Small (Illustrator).  
Features some of the world's best-known inventors-Thomas Edison, Benjamin Franklin, Eli Whitney-as well as lesser-known geniuses like Georges de Mestral (inventor of Velcro), Wilhelm Roentgen (inventor of X rays), and Hedy Lamarr (inventor of a system that became the basis for satellite communication-who knew?). Whether you're a dreamer or a loner, a copycat or a daredevil, this book might just inspire readers to invent something that could change the world!
- The World's Oddest Inventions (Library of Weird), 2015 by Nadia Higgins (Author).  
From the “Nose Stylus” (so you can use your smartphone in the bathtub) to the “Brush and Shine” (for the grooming of bald-headed men) to “Anti-Theft Lunch Bags” (which make sandwiches appear to be moldy and unpalatable), this book is filled with truly odd and intriguing inventions.

## Fiction

- Fires of Invention (Mysteries of Cove), 2015 by J. Scott Savage (Author).  
Trenton Colman is a creative thirteen-year-old boy with a knack for all things mechanical. But his talents are viewed with suspicion in Cove, a steam-powered city built inside a mountain. In Cove, creativity is a crime and invention is a curse word.
- Frindle, 1998 by Andrew Clements (Author), Brian Selznick (Illustrator).  
A quirky, imaginative tale about creative thought and the power of words that will have readers inventing their own words.
- Ghostbusters: Ectomobile, 2017 by Troy Benjamin (Author), Marc Sumerak (Author), Ian Moores (Illustrator).  
Discover the secrets of the Ghostbusters' iconic specter-smashing automobile, Ecto-1, with this comprehensive owner's workshop manual. Along with a detailed breakdown of Ecto-1's capabilities and exclusive cutaway images that show the car's souped-up engine and onboard ghost-tracking equipment, the book also focuses on the Ghostbusters' portable tools of the trade, including proton packs, ghost traps, and PKE meters.
- The Invention of Hugo Cabret, 2007 by Brian Selznick (Author).  
Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.
- Rebel Genius (Rebel Geniuses Book 1), 2016 by Michael Dante DiMartino (Author).  
Creative fantasy blends art, mysticism, math, and magic. In twelve-year-old Giacomo's world, art

is powerful, dangerous, and outlawed. A few artists possess Geniuses, birdlike creatures that are the living embodiment of an artist's creative spirit. Those caught with one face a punishment akin to death.

- Surviving the Applewhites , 2012 by Stephanie S. Tolan (Author).  
Jake is notorious. Rumor has it he managed to get kicked out of every school in Rhode Island, and actually burned the last one down to the ground. Only one place will take him now, and that's a home school run by the Applewhites, a chaotic and hilarious family of artists: poet Lucille, theater director Randolph, dancer Cordelia, and dreamy Destiny.

### **Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous**

- Artsonia Kids Online Art Museum: Empowers students to display, and explain, their own creations. (Download from your app store)
- Ask Magazine: Explores the world with inventors, artists, thinkers, and scientists of the past and present.  
<https://shop.cricketmedia.com/magazines-6-9-years/ASK-Magazine-for-Kids.html>
- Pixlr - Photo Collages, Effects: Easy photo-editing tool sparks creativity, teaches basic art techniques. Download from your app store

### **Online Links**

- Exploritorium: Activities from the San Francisco Museum  
<https://www.exploritorium.edu/explore/activities>
- Math Science Music: Thoughtful tools teach STEM skills through music and creativity  
<https://mathsciencemusic.org/>
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, #metkids: Made for, with, and by kids, this site offers exploration and artistic fun.  
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids/>
- Tinkercad: Amazingly simple yet powerful online CAD tool turns kids into makers.  
<https://www.tinkercad.com/#>

### **Background information for the Educator**

- Creative Educator: Integrate Technology into the Curriculum  
<https://creativeeducator.tech4learning.com/lessons/>
- Teaching Creative Thinking: Developing Learners Who Generate Ideas And Can Think Critically (Pedagogy for a Changing World), 2017 by Bill Lucas (Author), Ellen Spencer (Author).  
Successful students value knowledge and skills at the same time as understanding the importance of developing their capabilities as learners in every lesson they experience. Teaching Creative Thinking is action-oriented and research-led and is packed with examples and case studies of successful practice, and pitfalls to avoid.

## Reading Lists for America in Wartime Resource Package Grades 9 through 12

The resources in this section can be used with the America in Wartime Resource Packet for grades 9 through 12.

### Books

#### Nonfiction and Biography

- The American Revolution: A Visual History, 2016 by DK (Author).  
The American Revolution will transport you back in time and onto the frontlines. This complete overview of the war brings all the action to life, from the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party to the Declaration of Independence and the Treaty of Paris.
- Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam, 2018 by Elizabeth Partridge (Author).  
The history of this era is complex; the cultural impact extraordinary. But it's the personal stories of eight people, six American soldiers, one American military nurse, and one Vietnamese refugee, that create this account.
- The Civil War: A Visual History, 2011 by DK (Author).  
Comprehensive timelines, revealing first-person accounts by soldiers and civilians, key political and military leaders, as well as examinations of broader topics, such as transportation, the economy, and the treatment of wounded soldiers, make The Civil War a must-have for anyone interested in the history of the Civil War.
- The Clever Teens' Guide to World War Two, 2017 by Felix Rhodes (Author).  
This guide covers all the major facts and events giving you a clear and straightforward overview of the politics involved, the violence that ensued and how it changed the world in unimaginable ways.
- Courageous Women of the Civil War: Soldiers, Spies, Medics, and More (Women of Action), 2016 by M. R. Cordell (Author).  
At a time when women had few legal rights and could not vote, these figures took an active role in the Civil War by disguising themselves as men in order to fight or act as spies. They worked as nurses and found ways to assist soldiers on the battlefields. Spies included Harriet Tubman and Mary Jane Richards, who was planted in the Confederate White House to gather information.
- Dear Miss Breed: True Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration During World War II and a Librarian Who Made a Difference, 2006 by Joanne Oppenheim (Author), Snowden Becker (Afterword), & 1 more.  
In the early 1940's, Clara Breed was the children's librarian at the San Diego Public Library. But she was also friend to dozens of Japanese American children and teens when war broke out in December of 1941. The story of what happened to these American citizens is movingly told through letters that her young friends wrote to Miss Breed during their internment.
- The Gulf War: Operation Desert Storm 1990-1991 (Modern Warfare), 2014 by Anthony Tucker-Jones (Author).  
Each stage in the Gulf War, the liberation by American-led UN forces of Iraqi-occupied Kuwait in 1990-91, is vividly described in this photographic history.

- Jefferson Barracks: Images of America, 2011 by Sandie Grassino (Author), Maj. (Ret.) Art Schuermann (Author).  
Since it was founded in 1826, Jefferson Barracks has stood for nearly two centuries as a symbol for many aspects of America's history. It played a huge role in all of the countries conflicts and remains an important depository of the Nation's history.
- The Navajo Codetalkers, 2016 by J. Patrick Lewis (Author).  
With a complicated history of mistreatment and distrust of the American Government, the Navajo People helped win WW II.
- Women Heroes of the American Revolution: 20 Stories of Espionage, Sabotage, Defiance, and Rescue (Women of Action), 2015 by Susan Casey (Author).  
When you think of the American Revolution, perhaps you envision the Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere's infamous ride, or George Washington crossing the Delaware River. But there are many other, lesser-known stories of the war that engulfed women's lives as it did the lives of their fathers, husbands, and sons. Most often, their names did not make it into history books.
- World War I: The Definitive Visual History, 2014 by R. G. Grant (Author).  
This title charts the developments of the war from a global perspective. Using illustrated timelines, detailed maps, and personal accounts, readers will see the oft-studied war in a new light. Key episodes are set clearly in the wider context of the conflict, in-depth profiles look at the key generals and political leaders, and full-color photo galleries showcase the weapons, inventions, and new technologies that altered the course of history.

## Fiction

- America at War: Poems Selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, 2008 by Lee Bennett Hopkins and Stephen Alcorn. (Editors).  
More than 50 poems exploring war, from the American Revolution to the Iraq War. Includes Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, e. e. cummings.
- Fallen Angels, 1988 by Walter Dean Myers (Author).  
Fallen Angels takes place in 1968, against the backdrop of the Vietnam War. The story follows the journey of a teenager from New York City who struggles to survive in Vietnam. Excellent but graphic.
- Gaijin: American Prisoner of War, 2015 by Matt Faulkner (Author). Graphic Novel  
Based on a true story, this is the tale of a thirteen-year-old California boy who is half Japanese. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, he is sent to an internment camp.
- Girl in Blue, 2005 by Ann Rinaldi (Author).  
The year is 1861. When teenager Sarah Louisa learns that she is to be married off to her despicable neighbor, she runs away from home. Disguising herself as a boy, Sarah joins the army, and before long is a soldier in the Civil War. Sarah navigates the joys and hardships of army life, all the while struggling to keep her true identity a secret.
- The Journal Of Patrick Seamus Flaherty, United States Marine Corps My Name Is America, 2002 by Ellen Emerson White (Author).  
An agonizing dilemma plagues these brother-sister diarists. He is a Marine stationed in Vietnam. She is at home in America, far away from her brother's war zone, fighting for peace. As the marine writes in his journal about his experiences as a soldier, fighting an enemy he can't see, his sister seeks peace. This novel captures the unique time period when America was at war both in a far-off place, and at home where adults and children alike marched in the streets for peace and freedom.



- Mare's War, 2009 by Tanita Davis (Author).  
Fifteen-year-old Octavia and her 17-year-old sister Tali must drive across the country with their stiletto shoes-wearing, cigarette-smoking grandmother, who insists they call her by her first name, Mare. In alternating chapters, the narration switches from their road trip to Mare's first-person account of her time in training and then in service overseas with an African American WAC unit.
- My Brother Sam is Dead, 2005 by James Lincoln Collier (Author).  
All his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother Sam. Sam's smart and brave -- and is now a part of the American Revolution. Not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion. Most are supporters of the British -- including Tim and Sam's father.
- The Red Badge of Courage, 1990 by Stephen Crane (Author), Stanley Appelbaum (Editor).  
First published in 1895, this small masterpiece set the pattern for the treatment of war in modern fiction. The novel is told through the eyes of Henry Fleming, a young soldier caught up in an unnamed Civil War battle who is motivated not by the unselfish heroism of conventional war stories, but by fear, cowardice, and finally, egotism. However, in his struggle to find reality amid the nightmarish chaos of war, the young soldier also discovers courage, humility, and perhaps, wisdom.
- Sunrise Over Fallujah, 2009 by Walter Dean Myers (Author).  
Operation Iraqi Freedom, that's the code name. But the young men and women in the military's Civil Affairs Battalion have a simpler name for it: WAR. Myers looks at a contemporary war with power and searing insight. Excellent but graphic.
- Where Have All the Flowers Gone? The Diary of Molly MacKenzie Flaherty, 2002 by Ellen Emerson White (Author).  
The sister of a Marine fighting in a war she does not believe in, our zealous heroine must reconcile her life as anti-war demonstrator with that of her brother. An agonizing dilemma plagues these brother-sister diarists. He is a Marine stationed in Vietnam. She is at home in America, far away from her brother's war zone, fighting for peace.

## Online Links

- Americans in Wartime Museum  
<http://www.nmaw.org/>
- Life on the Homefront during WWII  
[https://www.ducksters.com/history/world\\_war\\_ii/ww2\\_us\\_home\\_front.php](https://www.ducksters.com/history/world_war_ii/ww2_us_home_front.php)
- National Civil War Museum  
<https://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/>
- National WWI Museum  
<https://www.theworldwar.org/>
- National WWII Museum  
<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/>
- The Pritzker Military Museum: This resource has an outstanding collection of artifacts and information as well as rotating exhibits you can view online  
<http://www.pritzkermilitary.org/>
- Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park  
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/the-wwii-home-front.htm>

## Background information for the Educator

- [Scholastic Inc: A Guide to teaching and talking about war with books to children and teens.](https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/guide-teaching-and-talking-about-war-books-children-and-teens/)