



Archie's War

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Marcia Williams captures the Great War through a child's eyes with a fascinating fictional scrapbook including real mementos of the day.

Meet ten-year-old Archie, his family, and best friend in a scrapbook Archie has made himself, full of comic strips and plenty of other memorabilia. The year is 1914, and as the Great War begins, Archie's scrapbook reflects the war's impact on his life and on those who write back from the front. Marcia Williams retains her humor and energy as she employs a new collage style to present an intimate and compelling view of the First World War and its era.

Archie's War Details

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Author : Marcia Williams

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From Reader Review Archie's War for online ebook

Tom Romig says

Marcia Williams chose a clever and highly engaging approach to bringing students an understanding of the First World War. Ten years old at the war's start in 1914, East Ender Archie Albright begins a scrapbook that stretches to the armistice. Photos, clippings, artifacts, drawings, letters, and more are woven together with Archie's take on events as a child whose father is in arms and whose family endures rationing, bombing, and uncertainty. Well executed.

Emily says

An interesting and engaging story surrounding the life of the schoolboy Archie Albright, based at the time of the First World War. After Archie is given a scrapbook by his Uncle Colin, he writes from 1914 until the war ends in 1918. The reader will experience life at the time through the eyes of Archie and learn about how his world worked.

This book is effective in engaging the reader through pull out letters or flip out pictures. This ensured the reader maintained their interest in Archie's story and learnt about the historical event of World War One. This book would be suitable for a slightly older child reader rather than a very young child as there are more structured sentences and complex vocabulary used. Also it is a great book to link to the centenary of the end of World War One in the classroom.

Daniel Smith says

This is a Scrapbook created by a young child during the events of the First World War in London and describes his experiences through words and pictures. Within the book itself, the actual layout is set out like a traditional scrapbook / comic strip with a large amount of pictures and captions to go along with it. Just from quick looking through the pages, I can tell this is a user friendly book and can be used by all ages because of uses of humour alongside emotional difficulties.

After finishing this book, I concluded that I enjoyed reading this book because I do not normally read non-fiction books but this one kept me interested all the way through.

I believe this would be a great book for young children (primary school age) to read because it not only gives detailed opinions about the First World War and the details of dates etc. but also provides these facts with colourful images to grab the attention of the reader and interactive sections for example letters that are within envelopes for the child to actually hold and read.

Anna says

Archie's scrapbook isn't all fun and games, especially as his uncle Teddy and then his father join the fighting, his mother and sister join the workforce, and food grows increasingly scarce, and readers never forget that he's a young boy coming of age during what was supposed to be the "war to end all wars." Alongside the newspaper clippings and historical tidbits, author Marcia Williams includes vibrant comics depicting the soldiers on the front and the changes back home, among the most sad being the treatment of Archie's German neighbors in East London.

Williams does a wonderful job merging the history of the war with the antics of a young boy, who at a tender age must learn about loss, fear, shell shock, and hunger but also finds hope and happiness in the countryside. Archie's War makes learning the history of The Great War fun for children and adults alike, with letters to be unfolded and read, various postcards and other items from the period, and countless illustrations that are both informative and entertaining.

Full review on [Diary of an Eccentric](#).

Donna says

This book is written like a scrap book about the First World War by a boy called Archie Albright aged 10 years. It is bright and colourful and has lots of different formats, ie: letters, flaps, postcards and letters. The pictures consist of black and white photos, newspaper articles, cartoons and sketches. There are lots of small pieces of information and pictures on each page which I believe would hold a child's interest. War is often used in class as a topic and therefore this book would be a great addition to resources. A younger child would enjoy the pictures and an older child could research further on the information in the book by using IT. I have found in class that a book with little snippets of information and backed up by a visual picture aids children's learning greatly. I will definitely be using this book in class!

Rebecca says

This is a beautifully done facsimile of a scrapbook that might have been compiled and created by a British child during WWI. It manages to get across the sense of the 1914-1918 homefront world, the characters of the boy and his family, the sadness, loss, and terror of the war, without going too far for its intended middle school audience. The humor is appropriately middle school boy, and the author doesn't shy away from the racism he expresses towards his former friend who is German. I don't know how many kids would read this for fun, but it would be a good one for parents and kids to share, and probably also good for reports.

Gabriella says

- Mix between factual and interesting, interaction
- Doesn't feel like factual as it is through a fun story/ scrapbook
- Very interactive
- Keeps focus

carrietracy says

I'm not really sure what audience this book is intended for. It would be far too difficult for an elementary school student to understand and I'm not sure if the picture book/comic elements would appeal to middle school or high school students unless reading for an assignment. The book is written from the perspective of a British boy during WWI, and as such contains many words that would be unknown to American children and the overall vocabulary level is quite high. A tiny glossary sheet in the back does little to help. The overall tone of the book struck me wrong as well. On a page where the child learns of the death of someone he knows the colors are bright and cheerful (despite a caption that says "My Worst Day" and the story of Edith Cavell, her brave deeds and subsequent execution is also cheerfully storyboarded as a comic with the "author" Archie awarding her with a homemade "dog-star" medal for bravery. While many major war events are covered they are largely written without detail, context or follow up. Without a teacher or parent guiding a child's reading of this book, and some discussions of Archie's perspective, I'd be concerned as to what children would come away with. I'd hoped this format would make information about WWI accessible to younger students, but I don't feel this book did that.

Bonnie says

The book starts just before WWI, and goes, diary style, right up to Armistace day, and details what is going on in Archie's life and also the world around him. Archie is a boy who lives in London and loves drawing comics. His input on the war is believable and makes the war understandable to young readers. The pages are busy with comics, letters, facts, and other doo-dads. Overall it's a nice book, except I felt that, since there is a lot of dated British vernacular used, the translations should have been more prominent than hidden in small print on the endpage. Also, I wished that there had been one more entry, since it seemed too abrupt, like "yay Armistace! The End."

Recommended primarily for boys, especially boys who are interested in history, and liked The Busy Little Postman type books, with foldouts and letters and the such.

Best for middle school or late elementary, because Archie speaks and thinks like your average boy, meaning a touch salty (or is that term only for the way sailors talk?)

Yeva says

L.H. Johnson says

I've been planning to review more non-fiction on the blog for a while. A lot of it stems from inspiration provided by conversations with my peers both on and off, and the slightly uncomfortable awareness that non-fiction is something I very, rarely cover.

A lot of that stems from my own personal experience with these books. I've always read, and I've always read fast. There simply wasn't enough *space* in the average non-fiction book to hook me. And then with the advent of the internet (ha, I sound ancient!), that quickness translated into online literacies and non-fiction was something that I rarely paid attention to. It just didn't fit into my reading pattern. And I think a lot of that still bears weight today - the quickness, the *expectation* of a text to provide an all round reading experience and to provide it now. Why would we read non-fiction when there's the entire internet at our fingertips?

Well, I think we would read and still need non-fiction for books like this. I'm a great believer in understanding the process *of* reading itself; understanding why you react to something in the way you do, understanding how you approach something, even understanding how you read a page - all of this helps to form your critical confidence. And it's a confidence that translates into so many other disciplines. Learning how to interact with, learning how to *decode* text, teaches us how to understand systems, sequential reasoning, cause and effect and so on and so forth.

Archie's War is a wondrous thing and it's a wonder that will last and last, I think, primarily because of the multi-faceted appeal of it. It's an appeal that starts on the back page where Williams thanks Archie for his scrapbook and wishes the reader 'best-browsing.' That's such a clever, special touch right there and it's one which is underlined by the front cover which proclaims: "By ME - Archie Albright". It's bringing the book into this lovely, clever space where it's almost read as a 'found object', an artefact, as opposed to being 'written about the past'. And that connection to the source, the touch and pull nature of the scrapbook, and the carefully coloured in figures, all of that starts to reinforce the precious nature of this book. It is Archie's scrapbook. It's so - crafted, so carefully, wonderfully put together by *him*. I love it.

So the tangibility of this book is beautiful, the weight of it, the *truth* of it is all something we get given before we've even opened the page. And when we do, we're given a lovely hybrid of comic strip, stuck in objects and folded out letters - all of which make the reading a continual joy. You move left, right, up, down - you *interact* with the text and you get involved in it. You're an active reader, you're an engaged reader - you cannot read Archie's War passively. This is smart, clever stuff and it's stuff which is making me sad that it's taken this long for me to talk about non-fiction.

Another thing to note about Archie's War is that there is a lot of humanity in this book. Williams' style is warm and caring and truthful. She weaves fact and story together and creates a narrative which teaches (and it does teach a lot), but never sounds preachy. Some of the spreads are breathtaking and made me quite generally look again at topics which I thought I knew about.

The final thing is that a book like this is full of inspiration for follow up activities across pretty much every subject out there. I particularly enjoyed this book trailer I found on Youtube.

I hope that I'll be reviewing more non-fiction. It's definitely part of my plans. And in a way, I hope they're all as quietly inspirational and as brilliant as Archie's War.

Linda says

What a marvelous experience to read (and pretend) is this scrapbook of a ten year old boy in London, right before World War I begins, and through the war. It is filled with comic drawings and loads of ephemera that the fictional character Archie has collected. So much of these teach us about the war, tidbit at a time! There are two funny characters that follow along in some of the pages, ripped out news clippings, photos, and most pleasurable of all, letters from the front that one can actually pull out of an envelope or unfold and read (Think The Jolly Postman)! As the months go by, Archie's pages become more serious. At first it's quite fun to play at war. But when his Uncle signs up, and goes to France, then his father and others, his mother goes to work at the father's job, the family chores weigh heavily on Archie himself. In the timeline of things that occur, like the Zeppelin airships bombing London, the brother growing old enough at 16 to go himself, the mention of food, or lack of food, Archie begins to know that war is not fun; in fact, it's terrible. This is a book to examine again and again, and I'm impressed with the research Marcia Williams had to do in order to include so much.

JKC says

I really wanted this book as it was really interesting and while I was reading it it made me think that it must have been tough for Archie and it is a really good read

Sarah Gerard says

This is the book in the format of a scrapbook which is created by a 10 year old boy who is living through World War 1. It is extremely interactive and engaging for children with flaps that they can pull up, letters they can get out of the envelope and read, as well as captions and lots of pictures, almost in the style of a comic strip. It's a really interesting non-fiction book, which I think would be really good for children of a primary school age because it teaches them about history whilst also being interesting. The fact the young boy is only 10 also makes the book and what is happening more relatable to children.

Serena says

Archie's War: My Scrapbook of the First World War 1914-1918 by Marcia Williams is the story of ten-year-old Archie Albright, who receives a scrapbook from his uncle Colin. Archie is a boy living in East London, England, who's in love with drawing and comics, and he's a got a best friend named Tom and a dog named Georgie. In the book he explains a little bit about his family, particularly his 16-year-old sister's interest in

voting. Once talk about Austria declaring war on Serbia begins, Archie's house becomes divided with his grandmother and father in favor of Britain entering the war, and his sister against the war and eager for peace to remain. Once Germany invades Britain's ally Belgium, Britain has little choice but to enter the war. Archie's scrapbook includes a nice break down of which countries were allied with Germany and which were allied with Britain, and it includes copies of news articles reminiscent of the time period. Plus, there is a running body count, which is something that young boys would likely keep track of.

Read the full review: <http://savvyverseandwit.com/2012/05/a...>
