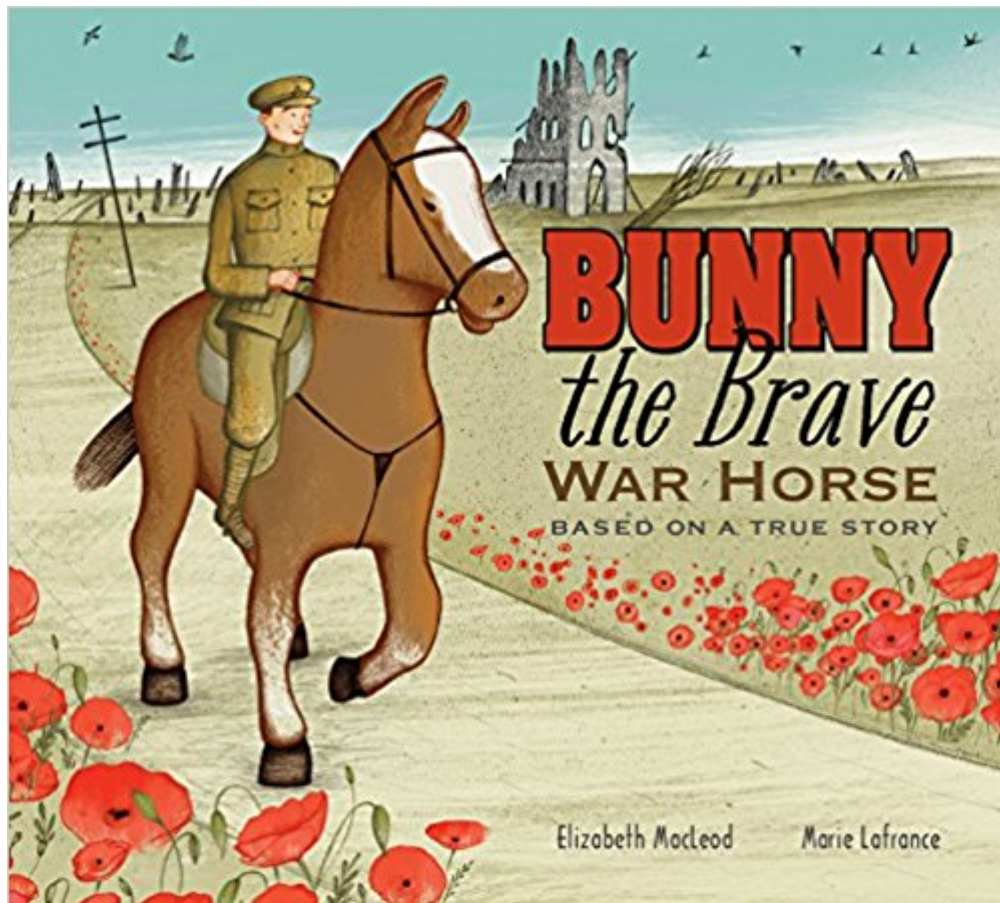




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Bunny The Brave War Horse: Based On A True Story



Synopsis

Award-winning nonfiction author Elizabeth MacLeod brings a slice of World War I history to life in this poignant picture book. It is based on the true story of a police horse named Bunny and his riders, brothers Bud and Thomas Dundas, sent to the European front as part of the 9th Battery Canadian Field Artillery. This quietly but powerfully told tale explores many of the actual on-the-ground hardships WWI soldiers endured, including a gas attack, wounded and killed comrades, exploding bombs and episodes of severe hunger. By focusing on the tender relationship between Bunny and the brothers and showing how he was able to provide comfort to the soldiers, the author makes the grim details easier for young readers to absorb. The somber palette employed by illustrator Marie Lafrance in her rich, distinctive and detailed artwork --- all on two-page spreads --- provides the appropriate level of seriousness. As a bonus, the author has provided a brief historical recap at the end that provides more background information about the real-life Bunny, Tom and Bud, with dates and specifics about WWI, which would be useful for creating a global studies teaching plan. The geography of the region is enhanced with a color map. This powerful book would make an excellent resource for any social studies unit about WWI, while it also works as a personalized reminder of the toll that war takes on humanity. Early readers interested in history or horses would enjoy it on their own.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 500L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Kids Can Press (August 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1771380241

ISBN-13: 978-1771380249

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.4 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #632,107 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European](#) #409 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars](#) #925 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Horses](#)

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

Gr 2-4 •During World War I, Toronto's mounted police force sent horses and men to fight in Europe. This fictionalized true story focuses on one of those horses, Bunny, a particularly brave and skilled mount known for his stamina and courage. The text starts off at a good pace but comes to a halt on the fifth double-page spread, when a riveting moment about Bunny and his rider facing mustard gas is followed by a generic summary of Bunny's wartime duties. The book describes other difficult aspects of Bunny's war experience, such as near starvation (for instance, one of the horses in Bunny's paddock ate a blanket for sustenance). However, as the book is targeted to young readers, the illustrations are not graphic, and their style, color scheme, and composition convey the narrative well. Back matter includes more facts about Bunny and the men who were assigned to him. While this is a poignant story, the length and subject matter may make it a challenging sell for readers; careful placement and readers advisory efforts are a must. •Nancy Call, Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Aptos, CA

Emotionally charged but never manipulative, Bunny's story and the story of World War I bravery will not be soon forgotten. •Kirkus Reviewsthis is a poignant story ... •School Library Journal

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