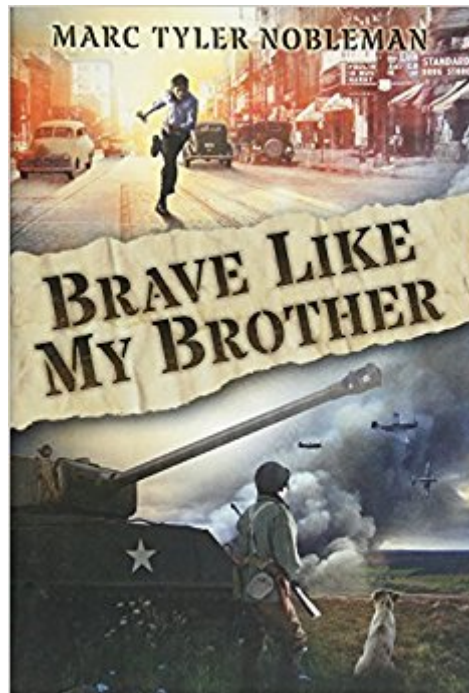




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Brave Like My Brother



Synopsis

When Charlie's brother, Joe, is called up to fight in World War II, he promises to write letters to ten-year-old Charlie as often as he can. It won't make up for not being there to help Charlie out with the neighborhood bullies, but it's all Joe can do. Life is tough for a soldier, and Joe tells Charlie all about it, from long hikes in endless rain and mud to the stray dog his company adopts. But when Joe is sent on a secret mission with the one soldier he can't stand, he will have to face risks that place their mission -- and their lives -- in grave danger. Charlie knew his brother was strong, but he will discover that Joe is more of a hero than he lets on. Will Joe's letters give Charlie the strength to stand up for himself and be brave, too?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770 (What's this?)

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Best Sellers Rank: #86,889 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars](#) #177 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies](#) #513 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-5 — In a series of letters home to his younger brother, Charlie, Joe describes life as an American soldier stationed in England during World War II. "War is just life with bigger bullies," he writes, encouraging Charlie to stand up to his tormentors, and sharing his own struggles working alongside a bully. He writes about the mud and rain, details of civilian life like rationing and blackouts, and a dog the soldiers adopt. When Joe and his bully are sent on a secret assignment, Joe faces risks that threaten the mission and his life. Except for letters from Charlie that bookend

the story, the exchange goes one way, with Joe referring to Charlie's letters to fill in details of life back home. The format removes readers from the action and creates emotional distance. The approach of this high-interest, low-level book creates a story appropriate for younger readers but lessens its appeal as an action-packed war novel. The book is historically accurate beyond the license the author takes, and acknowledges, about how much information about D-Day preparations the censors would have allowed. VERDICT Slightly older readers looking for a moving account of life in wartime England will do better with Kimberly Brubaker Bradley's *The War That Saved My Life*, but Nobleman's book serves its purpose as a gentler introduction to the genre for younger children. —Suzanne Myers Harold, formerly at Multnomah County Library System, Portland, OR

TWO BROTHERS, ONE WAR When Charlie's brother, Joe, is called up to fight in World War II, he promises to write letters to ten-year-old Charlie as often as he can. It won't make up for not being there to help Charlie out with the neighborhood bullies, but it's all Joe can do. Life is tough for a soldier, and Joe tells Charlie all about it, from long hikes in endless rain and mud to the stray dog his company adopts. But when Joe is sent on a secret mission with the one soldier he can't stand, he will have to face risks that place their mission -- and their lives -- in grave danger. Charlie knew his brother was strong, but he will discover that Joe is more of a hero than he lets on. Will Joe's letters give Charlie the strength to stand up for himself and be brave, too?

A lovely read and a glimpse into the bond between brothers through an exchange of letters. Charlie, a soldier in the U.S. Army during WWII fighting overseas, and Joe, his younger brother who's at home but fighting battles of his own, confide in each other and support each other during this difficult time. Grab a tissue for the ending.

It was for my 3rd grader. She liked it very much and it is easy to read. She read it very fast and she was talking about it whole day.

The story wasn't quite like a review I'd read about it that said it was an exchange of letters between the brothers. It was more one sided with letters written mainly by one brother.

purchased for library

Summary: Joe is off to England, having been drafted to fight in World War II. His younger brother Charlie slips a letter into his bag before he leaves, and this begins a correspondence between the two brothers that lasts from June 6, 1942 until August 2, 1944, a couple months after D-Day. Only the first and last letters are from Charlie, although others are alluded to as Joe writes home about his war experiences. Although Charlie always looked up to Joe, Joe doesn't see himself as a hero, just an ordinary guy struggling to survive in extremely difficult conditions. Training, dealing with a bully in his unit, capturing a spy, and a (sort of) failed mission are all detailed in his letters, which lead up to the climax of June 6, 1944. The final letter is Charlie's, telling Joe how his courage helped Charlie deal with a bully at home. An author's note gives a little more background on Joe's mission and the history recounted in soldiers' letters home during World War II. 112 pages; grades 2-5. Pros: A good introduction to World War II for younger readers, with likeable characters and some adventure, but not too much gory detail. Cons: Joe's mission, which seems to have taken a couple days, takes him almost five months to describe in his letters.

This quick read is structured as a series of letters between a young teen and his older brother who was drafted into service during World War II then quickly deployed to England to train for D-Day. Their relationship is the centerpiece of the writings, mainly authored by the soldier-brother, but within them a sense of time, place, and issues makes a portion of the history of WWII come to life.

Great book! This book will be a great read for anyone interested in World War II. It brought a human side to the war. It also illustrates the strong bond between two brothers. I am usually not a fan of the book's format (letters) but it worked well in this novel.

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