

Spotlight on War

Created by Inaburra Senior Library, 2016

War novels are set during wartime. Sometimes the story takes place on the battlefield, or in places that have been torn apart by war, sometimes the story is about the experiences of people at home while their loved ones are off fighting the war.

History of the war genre

The war genre is one of the oldest genres, with epic poems and sagas like the Illiad, Beowulf, and the Arthurian legends fitting into the war genre.

Many early plays, including some by Shakespeare, are set during the war.

War novels as we know them today became popular in the nineteenth century.

War novels have a surge of popularity each time there's a major war, especially during WWI, WWII, and Vietnam.

Modern war novels often focus on the experiences of young people during wars.

Common themes

Crossover with historical genre.

The experiences of a soldier going off to war.

The experiences of a soldier who has come home physically or emotionally damaged.

The death of loved ones as a result of war.

The impact of war on towns and cities where the fighting takes place.

The experience of people on the home front when people go off to war.

The experiences of young people during war.

Famous war authors

Markus Zusak

Morris Gleitzman

Jackie French

John Boyne

Sonya Hartnett

Michael Morpurgo