



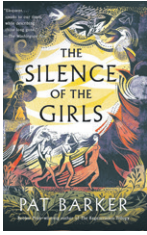
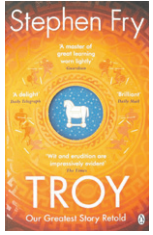
Finding a Good Read

A column to help you find intriguing books

Erin

Wars

The sheer volume of fiction (without even starting on historical accounts, documentaries and films) set in, and based on, different wars is staggering. Tragedy and trauma blends with humour, hope and faith in human nature, focusing characters and readers on the things that truly matter to them. The stories are hard to forget.

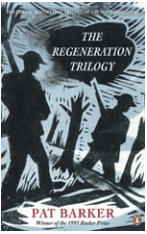


The ancient modernised

Homer's *Iliad* remains a reference point for stories of war. It has been retold and re-examined for new audiences through popular adaptations like *Troy* (Stephen Fry), *The Song of Achilles* (Madeline Miller) and Pat Barker's *The Silence of the Girls* and *The Women of Troy*.

Napoleonic wars

As well as a great ABBA song, and lots of memorable quotes, Napoleon's activities inspired sweeping fictional epics. *War and Peace* (Leo Tolstoy) may be the most famous, and the *Sharpe* (Bernard Cornwell) and *Hornblower* (C. S. Forester) series some of the most prolific.



World War One

No contemporary writer tells a reflective war story quite like Pat Barker, whose *Regeneration Trilogy* (*Regeneration*, *The Eye in the Door*, *The Ghost Road*) is considered among the greatest historical novels.

The books feature real-life poet Siegfried Sassoon -

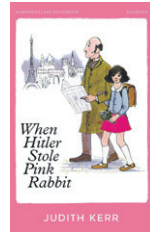
famous verses from him, and contemporaries like Rupert Brooke and Wilfred Owen, are found in *The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry*.

Several of Ernest Hemingway's books, including *A Farewell to Arms* and *The Sun Also Rises*, are based on his experiences during and after the war.

Birdsong (Sebastian Faulks) looks at how stories of war are told and remembered, while *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Erich Maria Remarque) is a contender for the best war novel of all time.

Elegant adaptations

Mixing the horrors of war with family drama (and some excellent period outfits) has led to gorgeous adaptations of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* (Annie Barrows and Mary Ann Shaffer), *Atonement* (Ian McEwan), *The Remains of the Day* (Kazuo Ishiguro) and *All the Light We Cannot See* (Anthony Doerr).



Children in World War Two

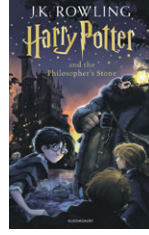
Classic children's books, giving a different perspective on major events, are often also deeply moving for adults. Many have been successfully adapted for TV and film.

The Diary of a Young Girl (Anne Frank), *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* (John Boyne), *The Book Thief* (Markus Zusak) and *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* (Judith Kerr) all focus on Nazi-occupied Europe.

Carrie's War (Nina Bawden) and *Goodnight Mr Tom* (Michelle Magorian) tell stories of UK evacuees, while for a lighter experience, the *Horrible Histories* books (Terry Deary) are a fun read.

Vietnam

Better known in culture for inspiring impressive films, there are still excellent books about the Vietnam War including *The Quiet American* (Graham Greene), *The Women* (Kristin Hannah) and *The Things They Carried* (Tim O'Brien).

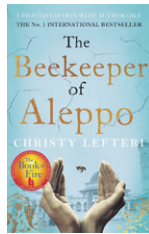


Fantasy wars

Imaginary wars can have a lot of impact in fiction. Classics *1984* (George Orwell) and *War of the Worlds* (H. G. Wells) have terrified people for decades.

The *Hunger Games* series (Suzanne Collins) offers a mature examination of power to YA audiences. The *Harry Potter* (J. K. Rowling) and *Her Majesty's Royal Coven* (Juno Dawson) books look at the aftermath and resurgence of magical wars.

World War Z (Max Brooks) recounts a war on zombies - and is much better than the film.



Refugees

War's impact on civilians is central to many novels, but refugee stories have a particular emotional heft. Refugee tales from across the world are in *Exit West* (Mohsin Hamid), *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* (Christy Lefteri), *The Kite Runner* (Khaled Hosseini), *When Stars are Scattered* (Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson) and *Girl at War* (Sara Novic).

With thanks to PRG and Give a Book volunteer Erin



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