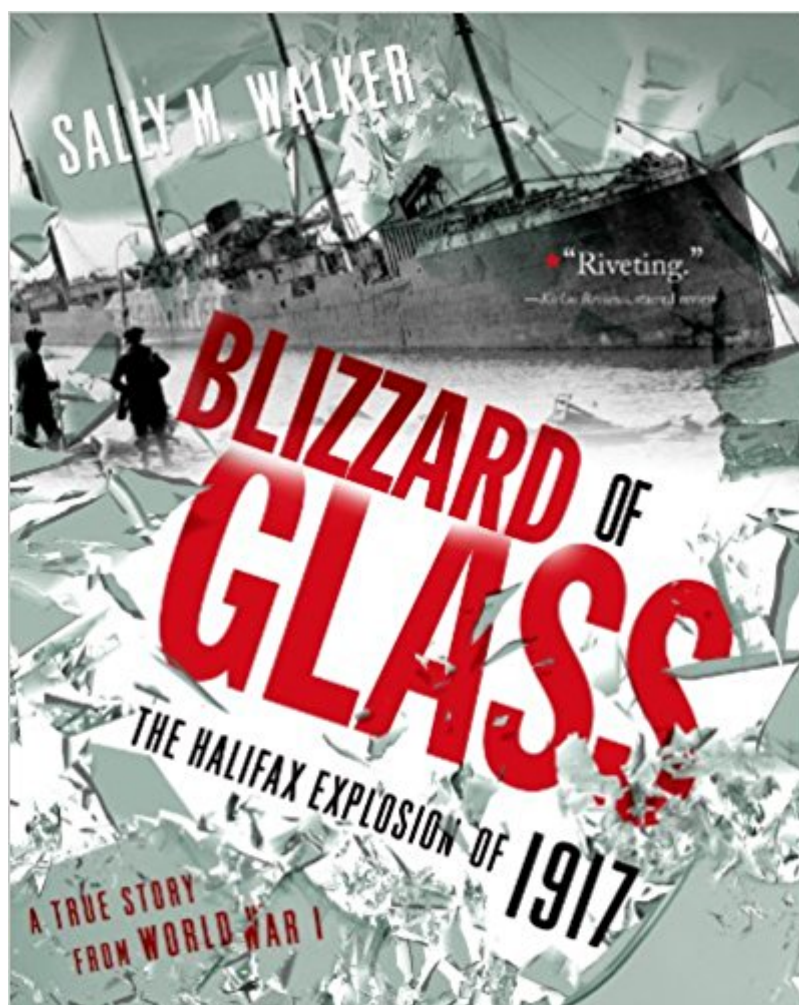


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# Blizzard Of Glass: The Halifax Explosion Of 1917



## Synopsis

On December 6, 1917, two ships collided in Halifax Harbor in Nova Scotia, Canada. One ship was loaded top to bottom with munitions and the other held relief supplies, both intended for war-torn Europe. The resulting blast flattened two towns, Halifax and Dartmouth, and killed nearly 2,000 people. As if that wasn't devastating enough, a blizzard hit the next day, dumping more than a foot of snow on the area and paralyzing much-needed relief efforts. Fascinating, edge-of-your-seat storytelling based on original source material conveys this harrowing account of tragedy and recovery. This thoroughly-researched and documented book can be worked into multiple aspects of the common core curriculum.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

“The well-designed volume clearly depicts the extent of the devastation in both words and photographs. . . . As usual, this author's source notes and use of primary sources serves as a model of nonfiction writing.”  
— Shelf Awareness

“Disasters make for gripping reading, and this account of the huge explosion of a munitions ship and its devastating effects in Halifax Harbor, Canada, in 1917 tells the dramatic history with clear detailed facts.”  
— Kirkus Reviews, starred review

“Halifax does indeed have a story to tell, but Walker once again proves that it's her consummate gifts as a storyteller that breathe life into the tale.”  
— The Horn Book

“This tragic, but well-told story belongs in most collections.”  
— School Library Journal

Sally M. Walker is the author of *Written in Bone*, *Fossil Fish Found Alive*, and *Secrets of a Civil War Submarine*, which was awarded a Sibert Medal. She lives in Illinois.

We are traveling to Halifax this next fall so I bought this to find out some background behind the city. I honestly had never heard of this disaster until I saw the book listed in the Kindle store. I read it fast, really kept my attention. The follow up on the victims was very interesting. If I had any complaint at all would be that it was too short, I felt that I wanted to know more but I also realize that the author did a good job of covering all she could. Very good read, very interesting story.

If you are unfamiliar with the explosion in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1917 then this book would be of interest to you. The book has a fairly large print and many contemporary photos. There are other books that are much more detailed but this book is certainly a good beginning. The explosion was the strongest in the world before the advent of the atomic bomb. It was early morning and people (including children) rushed out to see what the initial explosions had been. Many people simply looked out their windows and after the following blasts were terribly injured by flying glass. This story is familiar to people in Boston because every year the city's Christmas tree is sent by the people of Halifax. Boston managed to get the first train through to the city filled with medical personnel and supplies. The tree is Halifax's thank you. It is sad that this story is unfamiliar to most Americans as it was to me until a visit to Halifax twenty years ago.

While there is a lot of talk about teaching with informational texts - to align with the Common Core, there is not necessarily as much about students just reading, reading, reading these texts - independently. Students still read mostly fiction when they choose a book for independent reading, right? Sally Walker is a "go to" author when trying to get students to pick up nonfiction text for personal choice time reading. I didn't want to put *Blizzard of Glass* down - it's riveting and I just wanted to keep reading to find out what happened to the children whose families were highlighted. Give a passionate book talk on this and it will fly off your shelf. For more of my thoughts on this book, search wordpress sunday cummins and look at my book reviews for grades 3-5. I also have written about close reading of texts like this in [A Close Reading of Informational Texts: Assessment-Driven Instruction in Grades 3-8](#)

I am embarrassed to say I did not know about this catastrophe until I visited Halifax this year. I had

to get this book as soon as I returned. Could not put it down. Well written and very descriptive of the events and the personal lives of the people affected.

I got this book as a background for a visit to Halifax. I wanted to have some knowledge about the event and its place in the history of the town. It is a short read but very nicely developed (chronologically) and gives you a good sense of the causes that led to the explosion, the events of the disaster and the aftermath and the effects on the population. It is written efficiently but with a sense of humanity; I appreciated both. jhgrady

My husband and I are planning a vacation to Nova Scotia and I have been trying to learn all I can about Nova Scotia before we go. Thus I found this book. I know it is a child's book but it did a good job educating me on something that I knew nothing about. Glad I bought it.

This book was a gip. There is another book which you do not carry which is a lot better than your book. It is entitled "The Town That Died" by Michael Bird. William L. Bliss

Heard about this historical event on NPR and wanted to learn more. This book is an excellent recap of the disaster. It intrigued me enough to make me want to visit and see the history first-hand.

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Encyclopedia of American Cut and Engraved Glass (1880-1917), Vol. 1: Geometric Conceptions  
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Trans-Canada Rail Guide, 2nd: Includes city guides to Halifax, Quebec City, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary & Vancouver  
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