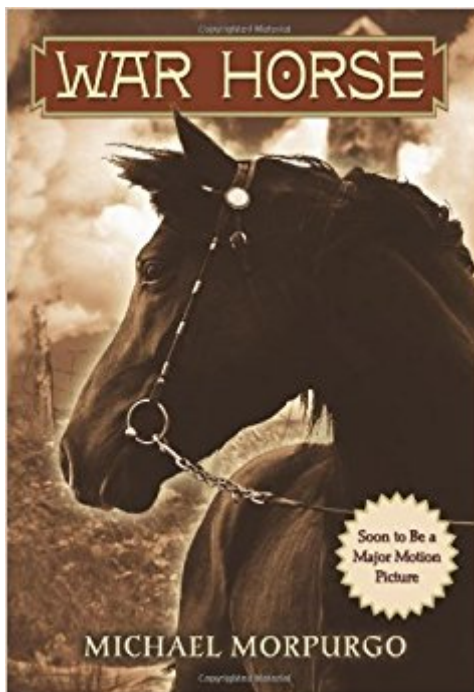


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# War Horse



## Synopsis

A powerful tale of war, redemption, and a hero's journey--now available in paperback! In 1914, Joey, a beautiful bay-red foal with a distinctive cross on his nose, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. With his officer, he charges toward the enemy, witnessing the horror of the battles in France. But even in the desolation of the trenches, Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him and he is able to find warmth and hope. But his heart aches for Albert, the farmer's son he left behind. Will he ever see his true master again?

## Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

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Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 847 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #17,504 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe](#) #27 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Horses](#) #29 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8-Since he was a young colt, Joey has been loved and cared for by Alber, a young English farm boy. At the beginning of World War I, Albert's father sells Joey to a captain in the cavalry. The boy is devastated and promises Joey that someday he will find him. Joey experiences army life and the disastrous consequences of a cavalry charge into machine guns. He is captured as a prisoner of war and becomes a hospital cart transport horse for the German army. The he's used by the German soldiers to pull gun carts through the muddy trenches. Joey bolts after his friend Topthorn dies. He ends up in no-man's land between the trenches. By a coin toss, he becomes again the property of the English. Joey is taken to a veterinary hospital where he is reunited with Albert. As the soldiers from both sides of the conflict share their thoughts and feelings with Joey, listeners get

unique and perceptive views of World War I. John Keating's' different accents are pitch perfect as he draws listeners into the story (Scholastic, 1982) by Michael Morpurgo. An excellent choice for fans of historical fiction.-Samantha Larsen Hastings, Riverton Library, UT (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Like Morpurgo's *Private Peaceful* (2004), this searing World War I novel reveals the unspeakable slaughter of soldiers on all sides fighting against people who are just like them. The story is told by an English farm horse, Joey, and, as in Cynthia Kadhota's *Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam* (2007), the first-person narrative blends the animal's physical experience with what men say. On the farm, Joey has close ties to Albert, who is too young to join up when his dad first sells Joey to the army. Charging into battle under machine-gun fire, Joey is captured by the Germans, who train him to haul ambulances and guns. His reunion with Albert in battle is sentimental and contrived, but the viewpoint brings close the fury of the thundering guns, the confusion, and the kindness of enemies who come together in No Man's Land to save the wounded horse. Joey's ability to understand the language wherever he is--England, France, Germany--reinforces the novel's antiwar message, and the terse details speak eloquently about peace. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

review submitted by: Bryson Tucker  
The book *War Horse* is about a horse. It is a story about the horse's life from when he was little to when he worked on a farm and then went to war. It is also about the different people that the horse lives with and how they treat him. It is also about the friendships that the horse has with the people that help him and with other horses. My favorite character was the horse Joey. He was really different and cool. He seemed really strong and he worked hard. He never gave up no matter what was happening to him. All of the characters seemed real to me. I thought they seemed real because of everything they went through. There were some that went to war, some that worked on a farm, some that got sick, and some that died. The story did keep me guessing. The way the characters had different things happen to them, you didn't know what was going to happen next.

This book is very unique as it is told from the horse's point of view. I think the author has nailed it if you could read a horse's mind or hear their thoughts you would get what the author has written as the horse's point of view. This story is like the jungle book stories by Kipling or water ship down by

Adams. If you are a fan of these kinds of books then you will like this book. This is a very interesting book well thought out. You want to keep reading to see what happens and you care about the horse. It is a story about if a horse has feelings and thoughts clearly the author thinks they do and I agree. I am going to read more of Morpurgo's book. I really enjoyed reading this book. It was one of the best books I have read in a long time!!!!

[Comments refer to the stage play "War Horse" by Nick Stafford, which is based on the novel of the same name by Michael Morpurgo]"War Horse" is pure story-telling, a classic tale for children but, hey, it's going to cause any adult to choke up with emotion. Think "Old Yeller," by Fred Gipson, or Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' "The Yearling."The stage play by Nick Stafford tells the story of Joey, a horse -- half thoroughbred, half hunter -- born shortly before the outbreak of WWI, separated from his mother while still a foal, raised in the Devon countryside in England by young Albert Narracott and sold to the English cavalry to fight alongside the doughboys in France.Saying good-bye to his beloved horse, Albert vows: "I want you to do yourself proud. You go and drive those Germans back home, and then you come home. I promise you, Joey, that we shall be together again . . . I, Albert Narracott, do solemnly swear that we shall be together again."Although too young to enlist, Albert, 16, lies about his age and sets out to find Joey and bring the horse home to the fields of Devon.A caveat: This paperback by Nick Stafford is the stage adaptation of the novel of the same name by Michael Morpurgo. The National Theatre in London gave the play its premier in 2007. The same production, in association with the Handspring Puppet Company, is scheduled to open at Lincoln Center in New York in the spring of 2011. Steven Spielberg is directing a movie of the book which is scheduled to premier December 2011.With that caveat in mind, for me the question then becomes does it make sense to read the play before seeing the "War Horse" stage production or before sitting down in a dark movie theater with a box of popcorn and watching the action unfold on the big screen.By reading the play beforehand, you'll know the story and how it ends. But it's a fantastically compelling story that has traction enough to be retold and retold without diminishing its emotional wallop.The value of reading the play before seeing the production is that you create Joey and his world in your imagination. Seeing what you've conjured in your mind's eye and how that compares to what happens on stage or in the movie theater is, for me at least, a pleasure all in its own right. Think of reading "Lord of the Rings" and then seeing the trilogy on screen. Reading "Gone With the Wind" before watching the classic movie.For me, reading the play or book first; seeing the movie after, enriches the entire experience. My advice, get to know Joey and his story as soon as you can; then make plans to see the play and go to the movie.[4.5 stars]

It was a very good and interesting book. They had some of the best scenes that I read about in my whole life. I also liked the bonds that Joey made between all of his owners. I really liked most of the characters, the only two I didn't like was Mr. Narracott and the guy that he was in debt to. I would recommend that the age group for the book would be 10+, older readers, teen readers, college readers, people who like horses, and reading about World War 1. I hope if you already read the book, you had a good time reading it.

This book is about a farm horse named Joey who has a human friend named Albert. Albert's father the farmer sells Joey to the army because the family needs the money. My favorite part of the book is when Joey kicks Albert's dad because I thought that part was really funny. One part was really sad, because Albert's dad sold Joey to the army without telling Albert first. Albert came home and the horse was gone. I did not really like the book because it was mostly about horses and I'm not a big fan of horses. If you really like horses, then you should read this book, War Horse.

I became intrigued about this story from a friend who had a stopover in London and saw the play. He related the presentation of the horse on stage and how technical with various movements. I was interested in the background where the story originated. So I looked up .com website and queried the information. As usual, had the book and other background information. I ordered the book and it met my expectations. When they (Spielberg) produces the full-length movie, I hope they don't hollywoodize too much. Although the senselessness of World War I could be emphasized. Not many knew what they were fighting for and did not know they were sowing seeds for the Second World War. However, this is a great horse story within a historical setting. I think tagging it further would demean it.

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