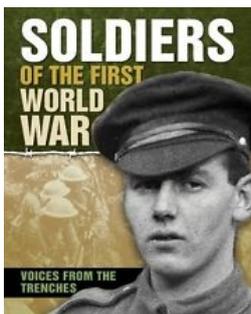


## World War One Non-fiction - a booklist created by Chris Routh, member of the FCBG National Executive

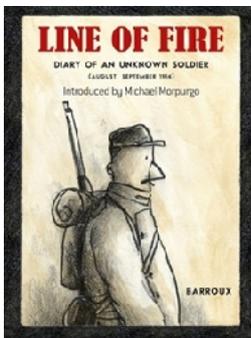
Not surprisingly there is a plethora of non-fiction titles about World War One – but that doesn't necessarily make it any easier to identify books to suit a particular purpose or audience! It is always useful to be able to see a wide range of books before making selections and visiting a library showroom, a local school library service or bookshop can sometimes be very helpful with this. The summer edition of *Carousel* contains an excellent supplement containing reviews of recently published fact and fiction titles and there is an ever-increasing number of lists of recommended resources available online (see [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk) and [www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk) for example).

The following list should therefore be regarded as a snap-shot of what is currently available:



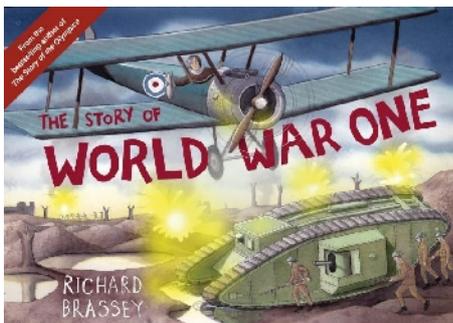
### **Soldiers of the First World War: Voices from the Trenches** by Simon Adams

This thought-provoking account of the war is brought to life by the words of some of the young men who fought in it – from Britain and its Empire, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, the United States and more. Regardless of the side they fought on, they all shared very similar experiences and feelings. In this respect, the book would make a good starting point for discussing 'war' in general with students of 11 plus.



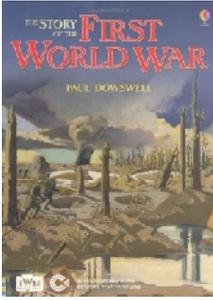
### **Line of Fire: Diary of an Unknown Soldier** by Barroux

This much applauded graphic presentation of a French soldier's diary discovered by the illustrator, provides the story of the first few months of the First World War and then stops abruptly. Although there are clues about the soldier's identity, we will probably never know what happened to him. Visit the accompanying website [www.lineoffirebook.com](http://www.lineoffirebook.com) for more information including teachers' resources and background information which includes a glossary and timeline, an explanation of the French perspective of the war and notes by the translator.



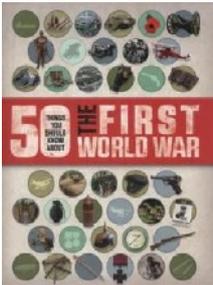
### **The Story of World War One** by Richard Brassey

This beautifully illustrated picture book offer a simple introduction to the First world War, which is ideal for younger (or more sensitive) readers of around 6 – 11. It covers the key events, includes clearly presented maps and diagrams, and introduces a wide range of people involved in and affected by the war both at home and abroad.



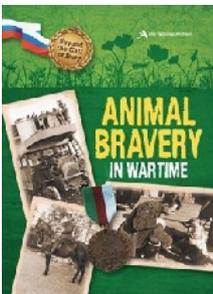
### **The Story of First World War** by Paul Dowswell

Published this year in association with the Imperial War Museums, this provides an accessible and well-presented overview of the Great War. Paul Dowswell pitches the text just right for 9-12 year olds and there is a wide range of colourful illustrations including contemporary art, photographs, posters and maps. This is an excellent book for both home and school – ideal for dipping into or for research. Usbourne has published several other titles about the First World War, each of which is pitched at a different interest age.



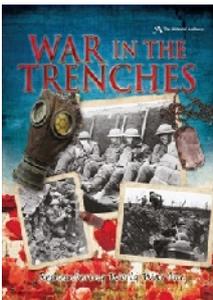
### **50 Things You Should Know About the First World War** by Jim Eldridge

This chronological account is packed with fascinating facts. Each year begins with a clearly presented map and timeline showing the powers involved, the frontlines, main battles and key events. The full-colour spreads are illustrated with contemporary photographs and images, plus engaging infographics. While the index, glossary and Who's Who gallery facilitate research, this also makes an excellent book for browsing and dipping into, and particularly for 9 – 12 year olds.



### **Animal Bravery in Wartime (Beyond the Call of Duty)** by Peter Hicks

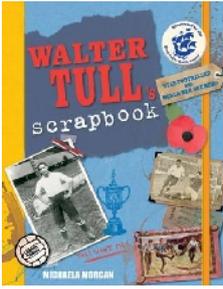
This is one of a series which explores outstanding bravery and courage during wartime. Animal Bravery contains a wide range of true stories about animals that risked their lives, without choice, to help humans in frightening and dangerous situations. Featuring dogs, horses, mules, camels, pigeons and cats, this offers a different perspective on the war, which will appeal to many 9 – 12 year olds. Other relevant titles in the series are *Bravery in World War One* and *Civilian Bravery in the World Wars*.



### **War in the Trenches: Remembering World War One** by Peter Hicks

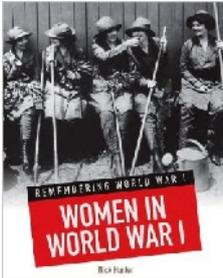
Rather than cataloguing the main events of the war, this provides fascinating insights into what daily life in the trenches was really like. It presents a much more rounded (and palatable) picture than elsewhere, making it ideal for 9-12 year olds. It includes sections on what the soldiers did during their time off, how they interacted with the local people and what they did for entertainment, as well as details of their daily work, what they ate and drank, health and hygiene and more - all enhanced by diagrams, illustrations and quotes.

### **Walter Tull's Scrapbook** by Michaela Morgan



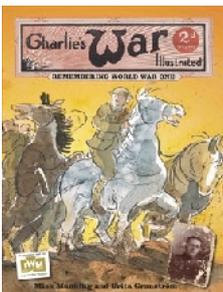
This fictionalised account of a true story presented in the form of a scrapbook is told in first person and profusely illustrated with photos and documents, resulting in an engaging account of one man's courage. Walter Tull was the first black British professional outfield football player and also the first black officer in the British Army. In spite of being recommended for a Military Cross, Walter was never awarded it because of the colour of his skin. For many young readers of around 9 -12, this story will have an appeal and resonance that reaches beyond its World War One context.

### **Women in World War 1 (Remembering World War 1)** by Nick Hunter

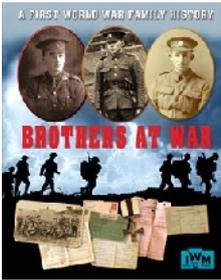


This explores the impact of World War One on women and their roles. It takes an international perspective and uses individual's stories and words to illustrate each topic. The book also covers what happened to women after the war was over. This is a traditional non-fiction title with familiar organisational features and therefore well-suited for use in school and of particular interest to readers of 9-12 years old. There are three other titles in this accessible series *Campaigns of World War 1*, *The Home Fronts of World War 1* and *Life on the Western Front*.

### **Charlie's War Illustrated: Remembering World War One** by Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom



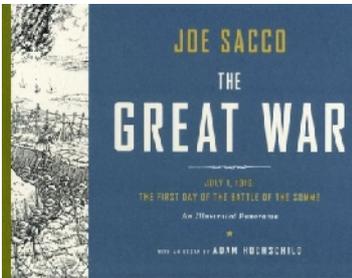
This is the story of the author's grandfather who fought in the artillery on the front line in Egypt, Palestine and France - and lived to tell the tale. Photos, postcards, cigarette cards and the like are effectively combined with full-colour illustrations to provide authenticity. *Charlie's War* is a sensitively told and beautifully illustrated biography which makes it ideal for younger readers of 6 - 11.



**Brothers at War - A First World War Family History** by Sarah Ridley

Perhaps one of the best ways to help young readers begin to understand the relevance of World War 1 to themselves is through their own family stories. In *Brothers at War*, the author and her daughter research the stories of four members of their own family. As they delve into their family archives and official sources, some fascinating and very different wartime experiences emerge. The book is as much about the research process as it is about what happened during World War One.

**The Great War: July 1, 1916: The First Day of the Battle of the Somme** by Joe Sacco



Inside the stout slip case is a 24 foot long illustrated panorama depicting the first day of what has been referred to as the worst day in the history of the British Army which resulted in 57, 000 casualties, 30, 000 of which occurred during the first hour. The accompanying 16 page booklet includes an essay by Adam Hochschild and Sacco's annotations. A stunning visual account of war at its worst. Recommended for 11 plus.

**Cowards: The True Story of the Men Who Refused to Fight** by Marcus Sedgwick



Although only 66 pages long, this little book packs a powerful punch. Erstwhile novelist, Marcus Sedgwick, tells the real life story of two conscientious objectors, Alfred Evans and Howard Marten, who faced imprisonment, and later the death sentence, by refusing to fight and staying true to what they believed. The reader is thereby invited to think about whether the choices these men made should actually be considered as acts of courage rather than evidence of cowardice.

## **War Horse: Interactive Edition from the App Store on iTunes**



This fabulous App offers a wide range of options. You can read the unabridged novel (illustrated by Michael Foreman); view a specially filmed performance presented by the author with musical accompaniment; and hear Michael Morpurgo talk about what inspired the book. The App can also be used to find out about the historical context of the story from a timeline of information bites and filmed interviews of historians and WW1 experts. Superb value for money!