



2009

Peaceful Heroes

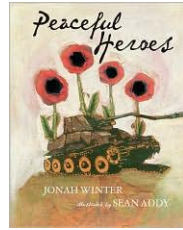
Sandra L. Tidwell

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Winter, Jonah. *Peaceful Heroes*. Illustrated by Sean Addy. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2009. ISBN 9780439623070. \$17.99. 60 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Biographies; Informational books;

Subject: Heroes--Biography--Juvenile literature; Peace--History--Juvenile literature; Books—Reviews;

Many people may remember William Feehan, the firefighter who lost his life while saving others on September 11, 2001, but fewer will recall Paul Rusesabagina, Aung San Suu Kyi, Ginetta Sagan, and Oscar Romero. These are just four of fourteen extraordinary people highlighted in this book. These people worked for peace through nonviolent means, turned the other cheek, protested violence by using words instead of guns or other weapons, showed courage in the face of opposition, concentrated on the power of love, sacrificed their own comfort to protect and save others, and promoted human rights and freedom for everyone, including the underprivileged. They lived in Afghanistan (Meena Keshwar Kamal); Burma (Aung San Suu Kyi); El Salvador (Oscar Romero); Germany (Corrie ten Boom); India (Mahatma Gandhi); Iraq (Marla Ruzicka); Israel (Jesus Christ); Italy (Ginetta Sagan); Pakistan (Abdul Ghaffar Khan); Rwanda (Paul Rusesabagina); and the United States (Martin Luther King, William Feehan, Clara Barton, and Sojourner Truth).

Each hero is presented in four pages. The text is succinctly written. Even Addy's oil, acrylic, and collage illustrations accented with mostly warm shades of brown, blue, and green add to its calm tenor. This book is suitable for all middle elementary ages and up. In schools, use as an introduction for a human rights unit or as a general unit on biography or world history. At home, it will increase the family's awareness of some of the many people who promote world peace. It is inspirational!

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