



2017

# The Great War: Stories Inspired by Items from the First World War

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# Book Review

**Title:** The Great War: Stories Inspired by Items from the First World War

**Author:** Various

**Illustrator:** Jim Kay

**Reviewer:** Ariel Woodbury

**Publisher:** Candlewick Press

**Year:** 2015

**ISBN:** 9780763675547

**Pages:** 289

**Interest Level:** Excellent

**Rating:** Excellent

## Review



For the one-hundred-year commemoration of “The War to End all Wars,” eleven prize-winning authors and renowned artist Jim Kay (*Harry Potter: The Illustrated Edition*) come together to create eleven beautiful short stories loosely tied around an object from WWI, all from the perspective of a child. The book features artwork between each story with a dark, two-page spread in the style of German Expressionism and noir art.

This book highlights the aspects of World War I that often receive very little attention in history classes. While most classrooms focus on the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and trench warfare, these stories paint the historic reality of machine guns, airships, Irish nationalism, and the beginnings of plastic surgery. The authors successfully express their ideas on the complex topic of war while maintaining appropriation and interest for younger readers. A deep and powerful read.