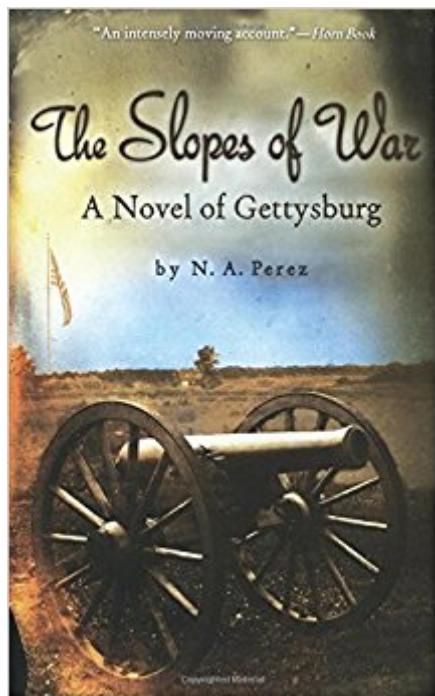


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The Slopes Of War



Synopsis

Buck Summerhill is a young soldier from West Virginia. He faces the horrors of the battle of Gettysburg knowing that his two cousins, Custis and Mason, may be fighting against him in the Army of Northern Virginia. The Slopes of War is a fast-paced, panoramic story of a family divided in loyalty but equally affected by the dangers and sometimes senseless brutality of battle.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850L (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reissue edition (June 16, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054701614X

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #148,116 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Civil War Period #73 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 19th Century #102 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Military

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 8-10 •Focusing on the few days of the Battle at Gettysburg, this novel creates a clear picture of what it might have been like to be a part of this period of history. The lives of characters fighting for both sides of the war, as well as those who are Gettysburg residents, all intertwine as readers observe the events as they unfold. Bekah, a teenager, helps her mother, who houses and cares for wounded soldiers from both armies, while she worries about her brother, a Union soldier, and her cousin and love interest, who fights for the Confederacy. The point of view switches among these three young people throughout the novel. Actual historical figures also appear in the story, giving it a feeling of realism. This novel does not hide the blood, guts, and heartbreak of war, nor does it underplay the strength of the human will. Rosemary Wells's *Red Moon at Sharpsburg* (Viking, 2007) similarly showed the realities of the Civil War but with more distinguished writing. Perez's book has a faster pace and centers on a specific battle. It's a good

follow-up for those who enjoyed Wells's book. •Sharon Senser McKellar, Oakland Public Library, CA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"The author expertly conveys the flavor of the significant Gettysburg context as well as the issues central to the war itself and opinions held by adherents of both sides." Booklist, ALA

Wonderful historical fiction that lends realism and depth to the Civil War and this time in our history. This novel will be added to our Core Knowledge curriculum this coming school year.

This book was bought for my grandchild for social studies class, i read it along with her and found it to be interesting as well

This book was on my son's school supply list came new and in great condition

I ordered this on September 12th it has still not gotten her it is december 11th I ordered this 2 months ago at this point ill be 80 before I can read it

Perez' novel is a young adult novel in a similar genre to Johnny Tremain: historical fiction with a considerable amount of gore. The scenes of violence in this story, which centers on the Battle of Gettysburg, are well-written and appropriate for the subject but I would think they would be too graphic for some young readers. Perez presents a Shaara-esque Gettysburg with a befuddled Lee and a Longstreet in the right. Her research fails her at one point as she places the Stonewall Brigade in the night assault on Culp's Hill (they were not engaged there until the next day) and the Second Virginia with the rest of the brigade (they were detailed as skirmishers on the far left throughout the battle, which is why they had only one man, Wesley Culp, killed in action). Most readers, of course, won't even notice this error. They may, on the other hand, find her presentation of young people involved on opposite sides of the war a little shallow, and her conclusion with the Gettysburg Address a little routine. Moments of interesting, original language do, however, lift this book somewhat above the general swamp.

I first read this book in 6th grade (although I wouldn't recommend it for most 6th graders because of the graphic nature) and absolutely loved it, even though I thought it was going to be boring (I got it

along with some kind of award at school in the 5th grade). To date, I have read it three times and plan on reading it again since it has been years since I have last read it. The historical nature of the book is quite accurate, even though most of the characters are fictional. Perez ties in real historical anecdotes with her characters and stories, which makes it feel that much more genuine. I was fully pleased with this book and would whole-heartedly recommend it.

I thought that this book started out boring and almost as soon as the war started, it picked up into a fast paced "horror" novel of what it would be like to live in this time period. I had to read this book for a college course and I thought it was a great read for us and I expect that even kids will enjoy history in the form of a story!

In our school we integrate a great deal of the curriculum in the 7th grade, in which we study American history. For example, we read Johnny Tremain during our unit on the Revolution. One year we noticed how heavily boy-focused our books were, so we chose *Slopes of War* for our Civil War Unit. It's well written, and one of the main characters is a very brave, feisty girl named Rebecca, a resident of Gettysburg. The novel is popular with both the boys and the girls in the class. In fact, our visit to Gettysburg each year is more meaningful because the kids become very knowledgeable about the battle, partly due to their reading of the novel.

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