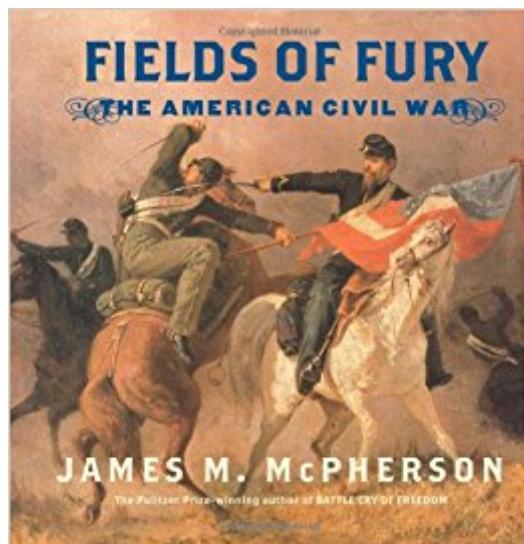


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# Fields Of Fury: The American Civil War



## **Synopsis**

Pulitzer Prize award-winning historian James M. McPherson has written for young readers a stirring account of the greatest conflict to happen on our nation's soil, the Civil War, bringing to life the tragic struggle that divided not only a nation, but also friends and family. From the initial Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, to the devastating loss of life at Shiloh as Ulysses S. Grant led the Union to unexpected victory, to the brilliance of Stonewall Jackson's campaign at Shenandoah, to General Pickett's famous charge at Gettysburg, to the Union's triumph at Appomattox Court House, *Fields of Fury* details the war that helped shape us as a nation. Also included are personal anecdotes from the soldiers at the battlefield and the civilians at home, as well as profiles of historical luminaries such as Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and Ulysses S. Grant. McPherson also explores the varied roles that women played during the war, healthcare on the battlefield, and the demise of slavery. McPherson's narrative is highlighted with black-and-white photographs taken by Civil War photographers Mathew Brady and Timothy O'Sullivan, period oil paintings, and key campaign and battlefield maps, that make *Fields of Fury* the consummate book on the American Civil War for kids.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 970L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (October 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689848331

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #129,791 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Era #118 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #180 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Civil War historian James M. McPherson's *Fields of Fury* does for kids what the author's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Battle Cry of Freedom* did for adults. The well-organized, well-executed, kid-friendly history of the Civil War was a brilliant idea if there ever was one. It's difficult to imagine anyone doing a better job than McPherson at breaking down this complex, interrelated series of events into such compelling and easily digestible chunks. Except for a handful of longer entries, each major battle and section receives a single, concise, two-page spread that includes McPherson's summary and analysis, eyewitness accounts from all sides of the conflict (many from kids!), a few "Quick Facts," as well as carefully chosen maps, photographs, and other illustrations (some of which, appropriately, border on the macabre, a fact kids will appreciate). *Fields of Fury* also includes a glossary, an index, a list of related Web sites, a bibliography, and a timeline in the endpapers. McPherson succeeds not just by grabbing attention and keeping it, but by doing so with such economy--and never without context that relates each entry back to the whole. (In fact, grownups who lacked the time or interest to weather McPherson's 904-page *Battle Cry* shouldn't be surprised if they find themselves "borrowing" *Fields of Fury* after their kids hit the sack.) (Ages 9 to 12) --Paul Hughes

Grade 5-8-A distinguished historian has used his formidable talents to produce a concise, accessible, and appealing history in an attractive format. In 41 well-written one or two page chapters, McPherson summarizes the major facts of the war and relates anecdotes that bring to life the conflict's participants, from the commanders in chief to the soldiers on the front lines. Interspersed with accounts of the principal battles are discussions of other important issues, such as slavery, how the war was financed, the roles of African Americans and women, life on the home front, treatment of prisoners of war, and the effects of Reconstruction. Each chapter contains a sidebar of "quick facts," and the book as a whole is enhanced by a profusion of illustrations, many full page, including vintage black-and-white photographs and drawings, period oil paintings in full color, and color maps depicting the locations of campaigns and battlefields. A good pick for researchers and browsers alike. Starr E. Smith, Fairfax County Public Library, VA  
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This is a wonderful book about the history of the Civil War. Kid friendly but not dumbed down. A lot of wonderful pictures and illustrations, as well.

I chose this book to use as one of my summer reading assignments for 8th graders. Lots of original

graphics and bullet-type information bites.

I purchased this book for my 7-year-old son who has developed quite an interest in the Civil War. I found this book to be of good quality and an appropriate length to satisfy my son's interest without boring him. It is marketed as a children's book, but I feel like adults would also benefit from the information presented here as well.

This book is written for elementary / middle school age kids. But it is a fabulous book for teachers of any grade to have on hand as a quick resource. They provide a summary of each major battle & the importance of it, info on major players, & interesting facts. I sometimes get messed up on the battle names & locations, this book really helps keep it straight.

Fields of Fury: The American Civil War is extremely well organized and extremely well written. Sparkling writing and compelling reading create a moving account of the Civil War. There are very good time lines, pictures, maps, illustrations and quick facts. This is the kind of writing to which all of our children need to be exposed. The book could be an excellent reference for children who are writing papers about this historical period. The author, James M. McPherson, PhD. is an expert on the Civil War. He is a Princeton University professor and the Pulitzer Prize winning author of the book Battle Cry of Freedom.

This was an interesting read. It taught me about the War of Northern Aggression. After this book, I recommend you read The Battle Cry of Freedom. It also teaches you about the War of Northern Aggression, but with greater details... Unfortunately, it has very few pictures. Cover looks cool though...

Mr. McPherson has a concise, organized format of the battles. I especially like the timeline on the inside covers and the "quick facts" tabs on several pages which help organize the generals and battles in your mind-- Photos and artwork are great!

This book is extremely informative and well written. The author does an excellent job of explaining a difficult topic on a level children can understand, without diluting the information. I'm a history buff, and found myself learning new things in this book.

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