

Tyler Thrash

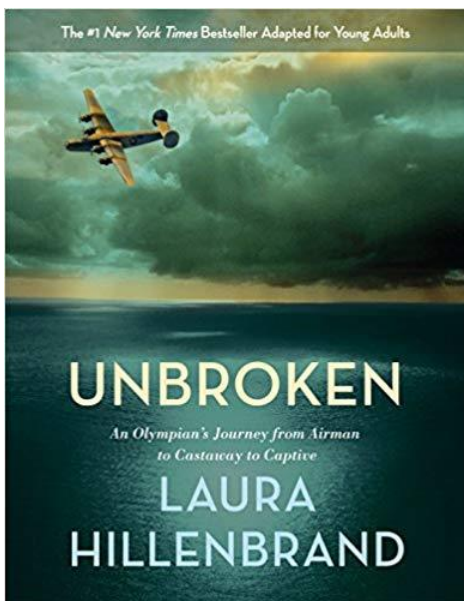
9th Grade US History since 1877

Unit: World War II

Annotated Bibliography

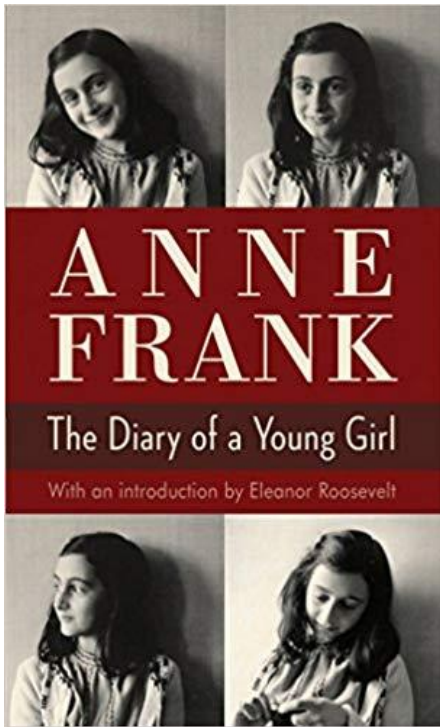
Young Adult Novels:

Hillenbrand, L. (2010). *Unbroken (the Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympians Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive*. New York: Random House.



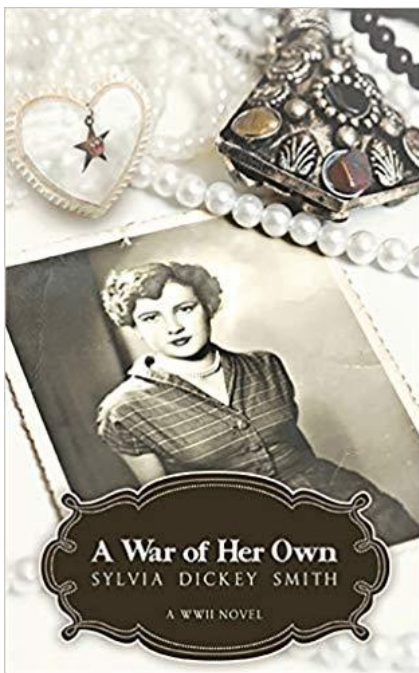
The novel *Unbroken* is based off the true story of Louis Zamperini, a US Olympic athlete that joined the military to serve in World War II. During his service in the Pacific Theatre his plane crash lands into the Pacific Ocean. Zamperini and his crew are found by Japanese military and become prisoners of war. The book chronicles the trials and tribulations Zamperini and his fellow service members face during their time as POWs. This young adult adaptation of Hillenbrand's bestselling novel includes illustrations and photos from Zamperini's life, adding depth to the story. Additionally, these pictures help young readers engage in the text further with the help of visual sources. At 271 pages, it is novel that readers of all levels should be able to engage with easily. This is a quality resource for students because it allows them to see the war from a very personal perspective, rather than a general overview of events.

Frank, A. (1993). *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*. New York: Bantam Books.



The Diary of Anne Frank is a classic resource for students studying World War II. I remember reading this book during my US History courses in High School. The Holocaust was a tragic event that took place during World War II. It is often hard to grasp the full weight of the event and how it changed and ended the lives of millions of innocent people, primarily of Jewish decent. The Diary of Anne Frank helps immerse students in the horrors of what took place in Nazi Germany in ways that textbooks cannot. By reading her firsthand accounts of the struggles of hiding from Nazi soldiers, students gain a better understanding of how this tragedy was lived through by the people being targeted. I would not recommend this book to all students, as it can be very emotionally challenging to read through. However, for students who are able to tolerate a deeply emotional story, this resource can prove very beneficial to understanding the true implications of Hitler's "Final Solution". At 283 pages in length, *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* sits around the same reading difficulty as *Unbroken*, and will allow students to read the entirety of the novel without exhausting them. Additionally, this book provides some pictures and illustrations that help readers better absorb the material.

Smith, S. D. (2010). *A War of Her Own: A World War II Novel*. Milwaukee: Crickhollow Books.

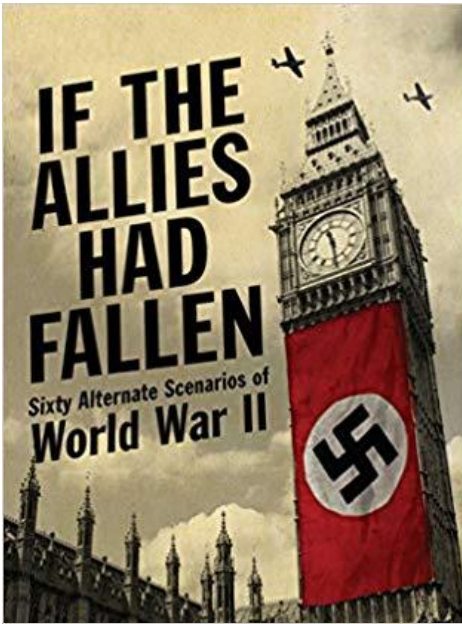


A War of Her Own is a historical novel that takes place in Orange Texas during World War II. In this novel, protagonist Bae Meade is a young mother who finds herself alone after her husband leaves for another woman. This leads Bae to search for work as a riveter in a shipyard. Rosie the Riveter, an iconic World War II symbol that represented the working-class women of the time is brought to life in this captivating story. The novel includes themes of women empowerment, love and heartbreak, and additionally explores how these ideas were affected by the cultural climate of America during World War II. I like how this novel provides female students with an opportunity to read about how women were affected during the war. By placing the setting in the American Homefront, rather than a theatre of war, the novel provides a unique perspective of how American's at home handled the war. At 280 pages, this novel provides readers of all levels the opportunity to engage in an entertaining story that gives a fresh take on women's involvement in World War II.

Trade Books:

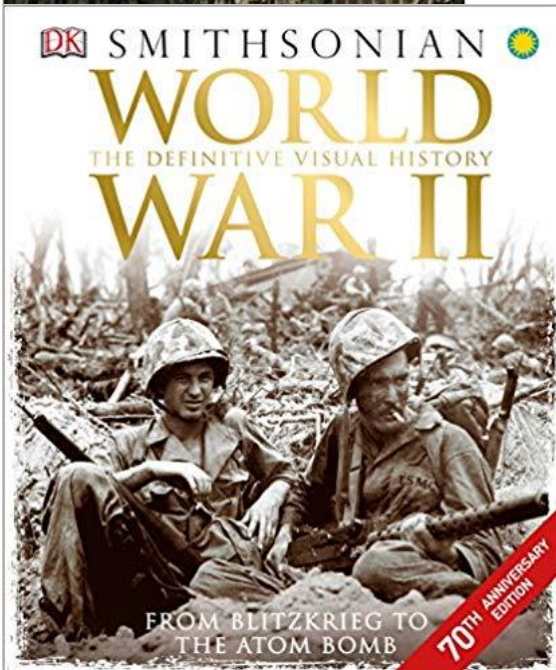
Showalter, D. E., & Deutsch, H. C. (2010). *If the Allies Had Fallen?: Sixty Alternate Scenarios of World War II*. New York: Skyhorse Publishing.

If the Allies Had Fallen is an alternative history novel that details sixty scenarios in which actual events in World War II play out differently. Examples of these events include a scenario in which Stalin launches a preemptive attack on the Nazi's before they invade Russia, a look at if American forces were able to anticipate the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and even what would happen if Hitler had won the war. The book is



divided into sections that overview major events, times, and locations that surrounded the war. Within these sections, specific scenarios are explained in detail. This allows students to read and engage with specific events and themes without the need to read the entire book. This allows great flexibility for teachers and students to read the sections that best relate to the materials being taught. At 282 pages, this book should not be overwhelming to any reader. The length of this book combined with the ability to bounce around topics and sections means that students can use this resource to explore specific ideas without getting lost in too much reading.

Sturgeon, A. (Ed.). (2015). *World War II: The Definitive Visual History: From Blitzkrieg to the Atom Bomb* (Hardcover). New York: Dorling Kindersley Publishing.

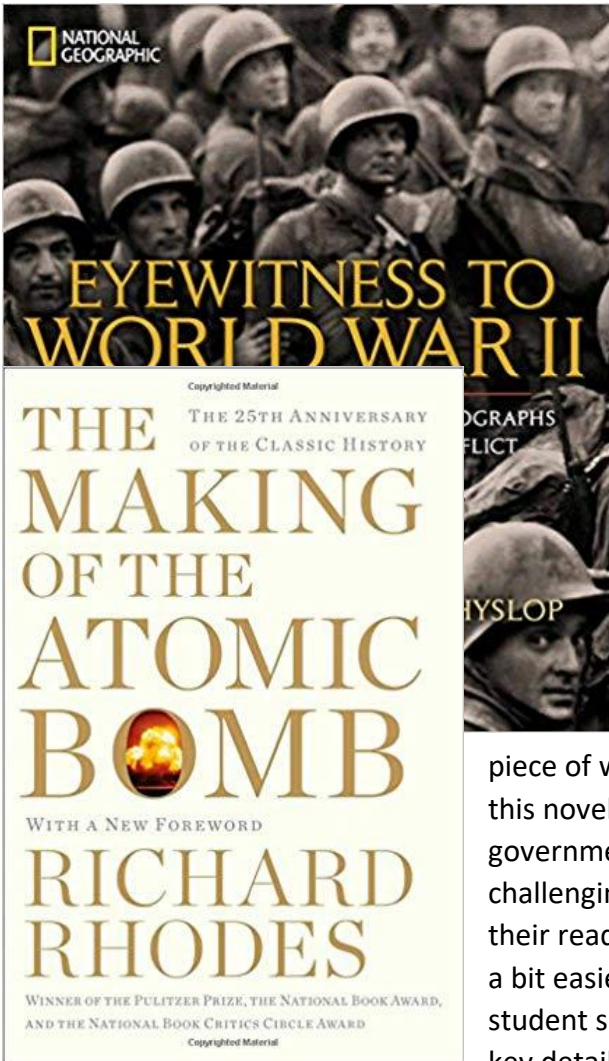


This book is one of my favorites in the classroom library collection. It is filled with illustrations throughout the entire book, often taking up more space on the pages than text. This will help struggling readers that are more adept to visual learning. The book is also a great resource because it covers so much of the war. It chronicles the war beginning in 1914, overlapping with the first world war. I like this take on building a proper timeline for World War II, as the aftermath of the first world war led to the second. The book continues to move along a linear timeline all the way until 1950, including the post war effects on the globe. Editor Sturgeon did a great job at including many topics, from specific battles, to exploration of women in industry. It is a very large book, consisting of 360 pages. However, with the table of contents and an index, *World War II: The Definitive Visual History* allows students to navigate easily and pick out the exact information they would like to explore. Also, since this book is primarily a visual guide, the 360 pages are not too much to

handle, as illustrations fill most of the pages.

Kagan, N., & Hyslop, S. (2018). *Eyewitness to World War II: Unforgettable Stories and Photographs from History's Greatest Conflict*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic.

Eyewitness to World War II is a great book for my classroom library because it is packed full of primary sources through firsthand accounts depicted in letters, diaries, photographs, and many newly released contents from private collections. Divided into six chapters, the book follows a similar approach to *World War II: The Definitive Visual History* as it proceeds with a linear timeline. At 352 pages, it is a rather large book, including many primary source documents from the time of the war. This can make reading challenging for some, but I would recommend using it as an extra resource rather than a book to read front to back. The best part about this



book is its extensive use of primary sources, allowing readers to decipher what these materials mean through their own understandings.

Rhodes, R. (2012). *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* (25th Anniversary). New York: Simon & Schuster.

The Making of the Atomic Bomb is a lengthy novel that details how the US developed the first Atomic weapon and its eventual use of this bomb on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The author of this novel, Rhodes, is considered one of the greatest writers regarding the subject of the Manhattan Project. His novel made him the winner of a Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the National Book Critics Circle Award. I wouldn't recommend this book to readers that struggle with long texts, as it is voluminous piece of work that boasts over 700 pages in length. For strong readers, this novel will provide an insightful look into how and why the US government began the Manhattan Project. I wanted to include a challenging novel in my classroom library for readers who like to push their reading abilities. The novel follows a linear timeline, which makes it a bit easier to read through. However, this is not the type of novel a student should pick up and browse through as they will most likely miss key details that are imperative to the understanding of the topic. One of

the stronger points in the novel is Rhodes' use of multiple characters and political figures. President FDR, Einstein, Oppenheimer, and President Truman are just some of the major figures discussed within the book. The use of these prominent figures offers multiple viewpoints on the development of the atomic bomb, giving readers an enhanced perspective of how the events unfolded. The development of the first atomic weapon changed the course of human history forever. By providing a resource such as this, students can gain a better understanding of the remarkable and devastating impact this development had on the world.

Websites:

The National World War II Museum of New Orleans. <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/>



THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM NEW ORLEANS

The National World War II Museum website offers countless resources for students and teachers to further explore topics surrounding the war that changed the world forever. This expansive website offers distance learning programs such as Skype in the Classroom, Virtual Fieldtrips, Electronic Fieldtrips, and Webinars. These tools help teachers bring the museum into the classroom as it would be very difficult to set up an actual fieldtrip that crosses State lines. In addition to the distance learning programs, the website is filled with galleries, first person oral histories, and an abundance of articles that cover many, if not all aspects of the war. The National

World War II Museum also offers a strong section of student resources that include digital learning projects and help with starting research papers. For teachers, the website offers primary source driven lesson plans, STEM focused lesson plans, and professional development such as weeklong seminars and even a Master's program for World War II studies. This website is perfect for my classroom library because it not only provides resources for students, but also resources for educators, making it a dual-purpose tool for education.

Crash Course <https://thecrashcourse.com/>

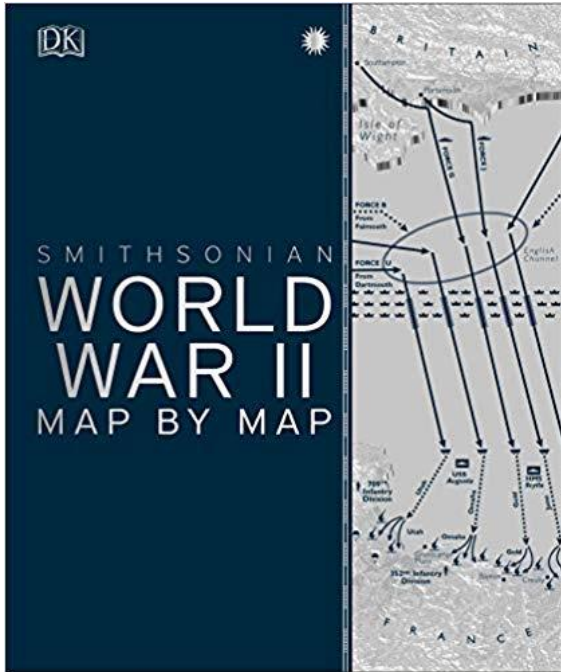


The Crash Course website was developed after their YouTube series found extreme popularity among students of all levels. I have used this resource countless times during my undergraduate studies, as it breaks down large-scale topics and units into videos that can be easily understood. The videos provide a convenient way to absorb information through the use of humor, visual aids, and comprehensive discussions that open new thought patterns, allowing students to understand the topics in ways classroom lectures cannot always provide. Crash Course offers resources on over

twenty subjects, including anatomy, government, literature, history and more. While my specific unit covers World War II, I believe it is valuable that this website can be of use to students in nearly all their classes and subjects. The US History and World History sections provide numerous videos that break down the events that led to World War II, the war itself, and the consequences of the war both in America and the rest of the world. John Green, the narrator of these videos, provides information in a lighthearted, easily digestible format, often with jokes and puns that hold students' interest in ways printed books cannot. This website can be used in the classroom, or as a tool to help students study outside of school. The ability to pause and rewind the videos makes learning the material easy for students of all levels. Another bonus of this website is that it is completely free and can be accessed anywhere with an online connection. I am very confident that this addition to my classroom library will help students gain better insight and understanding when classroom lectures and textbooks are not enough.

Reference Book:

Adams, S., Snow, P., Allan, T., Celtel, K., Grant, R., Harwood, J., ... Westhorp, C. (2019). *Smithsonian World War II Map by Map*. New York: DK Publishing.



The *Smithsonian World War II Map by Map* is a unique book that details the events of World War II through the use of intricate maps that help students visualize how the war unfolded for both the Allied and Axis powers. It can be challenging to visualize exactly how the war took place in a geographic sense, especially because the war was fought by over fifty countries and took place on every continent with the exclusion of Antarctica. With such a large-scale war, students may find difficulty piecing together all the events both chronologically, and geographically. This book helps solve that issue, as it provides a comprehensive overview of events through the visualization of maps in combination with illustrations and shortened timelines. Because the book breaks down specific situations in a precise manner, students are able to piece together the intricate puzzle of events that make up the whole picture of the war. I am a strong visual learner, so this leads me to select books such as this, but the combination of maps, illustrations, and textual readings mean that students of all

learning styles can find this resource beneficial to their learning.