

## **Perspectives on War through Children's Literature, 2009**

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### **Synopsis**

Perspectives on War through Children's Literature, is a unit for the middle school aged child that encompasses multiple goals in the academic fields of English/Language Arts, History, Social Studies, and the Humanities.

The unit is intended to enrich students' academic knowledge by exposing the accurate images of war. They will use language to express individual perspectives and explore and analyze information from a variety of children's novels. Through reading and analyzing quality literature centered on the theme of children of war, students will be taught to use their critical thinking skills to create criteria to evaluate print and non-print material. The unit envelops the six strands of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts, but the lessons can be adapted to fit the standards for other grade levels.

The unit begins with the premise that children today perceive war as fun and exciting. Through a yearlong literature study about World War I, World War II, and the modern wars of Afghanistan and Iraq, students will be led through a series of lessons intended to change their perception of war from that of heroic to that of innocence lost for children of war and conflict.