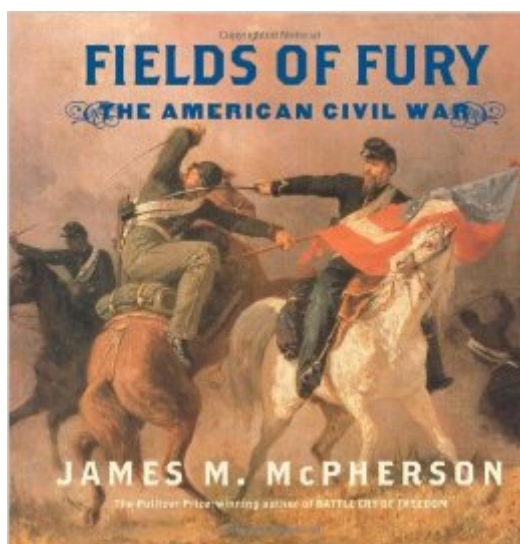


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# Fields Of Fury: The American Civil War



## 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

ISBN-13: 978-0689848339

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 [See all reviews](#) (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #344,550 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Era](#) #276 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars](#) #406 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

James M. McPherson won the Pulitzer Prize for "Battle Cry of Freedom," so he certainly brings impressive credentials to this history of the Civil War for younger readers. "Fields of Fury: The American Civil War" is done as a series of two-page spreads. The right side is a full-page photograph, map, painting, or other illustration; the left side contains 3-5 paragraphs of text, a sidebar of Quick Facts, and some smaller illustrations. After background section on the origins of the Civil War, the slavery issues, and Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, the rest of the book is structure around the major battles of the war from Fort Sumter to Appomattox. In between there are looks at both the military side of the war (e.g., the Anaconda Plan, Andersonville prison) and civilian life (e.g., Women at War). The book concludes with a look at Reconstruction, which is followed by a Glossary, decent Bibliography, Civil War Sites on the Web, and Index. "Field of Fury" touches upon a lot of Civil War topics in a concise manner, using not only descriptions of the battles but personal anecdotes from the soldiers at the battlefield and the civilians at home. Major politicians and soldiers are profiled as well. The result is a solid introduction to the topic of the Civil War.

McPherson's narrative is accompanied by black-and-white photographs by Civil War photographers Mathew Brady and Timothy O'Sullivan, period oil paintings, and key campaign and battlefield maps. The result is a nice little introduction to the Civil War with excellent production values, although this is a lot of information for young readers to absorb. If a student was looking at a particular topic like the Emancipation Proclamation or a specific battle like Vicksburg, then "Fields of Fury" provides some basic information.

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