



Dogs on Duty: Soldiers' Best Friends on the Battlefield and Beyond

Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

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When the news of the raid on Osama Bin Laden's compound broke, the SEAL team member that stole the show was a highly trained canine companion. Throughout history, dogs have been key contributors to military units. Dorothy Hinshaw Patent follows man's best friend onto the battlefield, showing readers why dogs are uniquely qualified for the job at hand, how they are trained, how they contribute to missions, and what happens when they retire. With full-color photographs throughout and sidebars featuring heroic canines throughout history, *Dogs on Duty* provides a fascinating look at these exceptional soldiers and companions.

Dogs on Duty: Soldiers' Best Friends on the Battlefield and Beyond Details

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Author : Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

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From Reader Review Dogs on Duty: Soldiers' Best Friends on the Battlefield and Beyond for online ebook

Jessica Schuerman says

(2015 Blue Stem)

If your looking for information about war/heroic dogs this is the book to look at. This book talks about different breeds of dogs that have trained to protect and detect hiding explosives. It also talks about how the trained the dogs to jump out of air planes, to keep guard, and many more. In the book it also talks about how a dog had stronger senses than a human does. Not only do they have strong senses, but they are used as messengers. They can relay messages back and forth to officers. Therefore all of these dogs in the boot have helped out and saved people who are in the wars.

This book would be a good book for a student who is doing research about dogs. This is not a story that is meant to read a lot loud, because it more just informational. I learned a lot about dogs that I didn't know before reading this book. I gave this book 5 stars because I learned a lot from it.

Ms. Yingling says

This short (48 page) book is as complete a coverage of Military Working Dogs (MWDs) as I have seen. It goes back as far as WWI in its history of military dogs, talking about how families donated their dogs during WWII and does address how dogs during Vietnam were considered "equipment" and were left behind or euthanized. Noteworthy dogs from many eras are highlighted, and the book is well illustrated with photographs throughout. For the modern era, the training that dogs receive from puppyhood onward is described in great detail, as is the training of their handlers. Specialized Search Dog training is addressed (for dogs who can locate bombs), and the equipment that dogs wear is described. Further resources, a glossary, and index are included. This is an excellent resource, as well as an interesting book that many readers interested in either the military or in dogs will find very informative.

Cathy says

Everyone knows I'm a sucker for a dog book, but that doesn't make me a softy when it comes to reviews. But this was really a notch above most kids books. It certainly isn't for small children, it deals factually with the realities of war and the many reasons why military dogs are so helpful. But that's also what's so good about it. It's one of the most informative books for children that I've read. And I really like that it doesn't talk down to them. It uses language and ideas that are appropriate but is very honest at the same time. There is no agenda here, it isn't political in any way. It's just very interesting and very informative and very inspiring. And the pictures are wonderful as well. But parents should definitely read it before their kids to make sure that their kids are emotionally prepared for it; there are a couple of sad items that they should be aware of before their kids read it to make sure they want to let them read it or are prepared to answer any questions they may have. I think both items were handled appropriately and I can see why the author thought that it was an important part of the history to include them in the book. But parents should be aware that it isn't just a fluffy, light book and make their own decisions about what they think is right for their kids, of course.

Bethany says

1. Fiction Twin Text: Title: Me & Jack, Author: Danette Haworth, Copyright: 2011
2. Rationale: Both of these stories involve dogs that have military ties or military family background. The book Dogs on Duty is all about how dogs are trained to work and help in the military from early war until now. Me & Jack is about a boy whose father is in the military and he finds friendship and solace in his adopted dog Jack. His dad is a recruiter for the Air Force when the Vietnam War breaks out. I feel that Me & Jack would pair nicely as a read aloud or literature circle activity to show the correlation between dogs and the military and dogs and military families. These books show that dogs are an important part of both helping in the military and providing friendships when family members aren't able to be present due to war.
3. Text Structure/Strategy: The main text structures of Dogs on Duty are description and chronological sequence. The book describes the steps dogs and handlers have to take to make themselves ready to be a Military Working Dog (MWD). It also shows the chronological sequence from start to finish to prepare dogs to become a MWD. Also included in the book is established sequence of how MWD have been present since World War I. The content area reading strategy I would use in the classroom is synthesize new information by having students create some sort of graphic organizer to present the new information they learned about Military War Dogs. This could be done in a variety of ways either using a web or creating a web based application like popplet or Venn diagram to show their learning about MWD or to compare a military dog to Jack in Me & Jack. This would also show compare and contrast of two dog characters one being a military dog, and the other being a pet dog of a military family.
4. Review Citation: (2012, September 1). School Library Journal. <http://www.titlewave.com/search?SID=7...>

Kimberly says

I loved this book! Informative, with great pictures and a solid list of additional resources in the back. Dogs are awesome.

Teresa Scherping Moulton says

If you're a dog lover, you already know what amazing companions dogs can be. But did you know that they can be a vital part of wartime and security? Dogs have been a part of military operations since ancient times, but more recently they have been specially trained to make full use of their special abilities. Today there are dogs working in many areas of the US military - from sniffing out drugs and explosives to patrolling for safety to capturing fleeing suspects. Military Working Dogs (MWDs) can go places where humans cannot, identify a huge array of smells, see well in near darkness, and navigate rough terrain. MWDs can even be trained to parachute out of planes! Learn about the training of these special dogs and their handlers, the important work that they do, and the stories of some of the most heroic among them.

I have a HUGE soft spot for dogs, so of course I enjoyed this book. It was really interesting to learn about

the training these dogs receive and how important they can be in the military. It's estimated that during their time in a war zone, a typical Specialized Search Dog (who performs tasks like searching out IEDs) will save the lives of 150 servicemen and women! There are also some poignant, sad moments in the book, like the story of a fallen Marine whose MWD crawled on top of him to protect him after he was fatally shot. This book just reaffirmed my belief that dogs are extraordinary animals and that humans and dogs were made to be partners.

I would recommend this book for grades 3-5, especially those who are interested in dogs and/or the military. I think this could be a good choice for reluctant readers as well. Readalikes might include *Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle* by Brian Dennis and *Tuesday Tucks Me In: The Loyal Bond between a Soldier and his Service Dog* by Luis Carlos Montalvan.

Abby Johnson says

Did you know that thousands of dogs have served in the United States military? *Dogs on Duty* explains some of the duties and missions dogs are assigned, how they are raised and trained, and what happens to them after they retire. This is a straightforward nonfiction text that will appeal to both dog-lovers and military enthusiasts, a great choice for reluctant readers interested in those topics, and likely to appeal to guy readers. Plenty of photos illustrate the text, giving readers a picture of what life in the military is like for these canines. A handful of exceptional military dogs are recognized in sidebars throughout the book.

Readalikes: Intrigued by the subject of dogs in the military? Try the novel *Letters From Wolfie* by Patti Sherlock for a look at one boy's experience lending his dog to the Vietnam War effort.

For more information about working dogs, try *Dog Heroes* by Mary Pope Osborne or books in Bearport's *Dog Heroes* series.

Randy Daugherty says

When Osama Bin Laden was taken down by Seal Team Six one of their members was a Belgian Malinois, and so we are introduced into the world of the MWD and their history with the armed forces.

First used in World War one, they were not used by the allied forces as much as the aggressors, but in WW2 they expanded greatly.

Vietnam seen a wide and expanded use of MWD as they patrolled bases, search out demolitions and even went on patrol, ferretting out the hidden tunnels and even the thin wires that lead to booby traps.

We are introduced into the search and selection of MWD and even the Military breeding the Belgian though not all puppies are Military material.

We learn of the heroes of the MWD, Stubby in WW1, Chips in WW2, Nemo during Vietnam, and Eli in Afghanistan. The MWD is a vital though often over looked part of our Military Force. May they always perform and always be appreciated and their sacrifices remembered.

This was a quick read but informative and very enjoyable, and a good start for encouraging our youth to read, learn and perhaps join as MWD handlers.

Brittany says

And now I'm crying. Good doggos.

Oak Lawn Public Library - Youth Services says

Lexile Level: NC1190L

Length: 48 pgs

Summary: Dogs in the military have been considered more like equipment than fellow soldiers since they started utilizing their services many years ago. This book briefly discusses the history and current uses of dogs. It also touches on why they are so important to the troops and what happens after service.

Recommendations or Comments: This book was nominated for the Caudill & Bluestem Awards. The lexile level for this book makes you think its an older youth book, but I think it's appropriate for 3rd grade and up. Like other books I have been reviewing lately, adult discussion to dig deeper is recommended.

Stars: 3 of 5

Reviewed By: Emily K.

Getting Kids to Read Non-Fiction Entry:

Grade Level: 3+

Pages: 48

Summary: A brief history of Military Working Dogs (MWDs), especially those from the United States from World War I to the present. It details their use in finding explosives and detecting intruders, explains the rigorous training of both dogs and handlers, and provides capsule profiles of "hero hounds."

Recommendations / Comments: This may interest both dog lovers and those fascinated by the military and law enforcement. It's a quick, interesting read that is entirely positive in its depiction of using animals in warfare. This summer's iRead theme, Paws to Read, will include materials and illustrations about military working dogs, partly because iRead is the summer reading program for the armed forces.

Stars: 4 out of 5

Reviewed by: Tom

Carolynn Wells says

Informational Text

This book was very informational on the topic of Military Working Dogs. It was very interesting reading about how dogs can be trained to do special missions that would help ensure the safety of soldiers. Dogs were used during wars such as the Vietnam war as well as the Afghanistan War. Dogs can be trained to jump out of boats and into the water as well as guarding their soldiers to allow them a chance to rest during war. This book can be used in grades 3-5 in multiple different ways.

This book can teach students how animals have very keen senses. The book can be used to help students research different things that animals can be taught as well as the different ways that animals are used in our daily lives. This book is also perfect for teaching students how our armed forces help protect themselves. I would use this book as a resource that would be on the classroom bookshelf.

M. says

Excellent nonfiction book, easy reading, very interesting, about dogs as part of our military. I certainly didn't know that dogs can be trained to parachute jump, that they stand guard when a soldier is sleeping, that they carry real time cameras to transmit information, that they can detect underground tunnels--in addition to detecting land mines and drugs and carrying out the search and rescue functions we've all heard about. We also learn about the history of dogs in military situations. I especially like the picture of Stubby, a dog veteran of WWI, wearing his army coat pinned with dozens of medals.

The text explains how dogs are selected as puppies, how they're trained and--very important--socialized, the bonds between dogs and their handlers, and what happens if the dogs get injured or too old to work (they're given to their handlers or to families, sometimes the families that fostered them as puppies). There are lots of pictures to illustrate the text and a glossary at the back to explain the military acronyms in case the reader forgets.

Amazon says this book is for grades 3-6 but I think it's appropriate for almost any age. With an adult to explain them, the pictures are appropriate for younger children; just because the subject is fascinating, the text will be interesting to older readers as well.

The only objection I have, and it's not a very strong objection, is that the text is printed on red, blue, and yellow pages. I found the blue pages not to have as much contrast as I would have liked and I had to make sure I had a good reading light. Most readers won't notice.

Cole Bearrow says

Summary

A fun story written about dogs that have served in the army! This story features dogs from different breeds, service branches and countries!

Evaluation

Very entertaining, will keep students focused on their reading. Short, concise sentences.

Teaching Ideas

This could be used to teach students about the military and that we sometimes use animals to protect our nation.

Allison James says

Nonfiction text: "Dogs on Duty: Soldiers' Best Friends on the Battlefield and Beyond", 0802728464 copyright 2012. Throughout American History, dogs have been an active part of the military. From Stubby, World War One veteran, to the canines who work in our modern military, "Dogs on Duty" details how dogs complete complex tasks, aid human military members, and even how they might retire. This book is an interesting read that could expand the child's knowledge of military jargon as well as their vocabulary. It pairs well with the fiction text "Officer Buckle and Gloria" by Peggy Rathmann. Officer Buckle is a member of the police department dedicated to teaching children how to be safe, assisted by the always handy and entertaining Gloria the police dog! Assisted by her spunk and pantomimes, Officer Buckle and Gloria succeed in teaching local children not to stand on swivel chairs and to always wipe up slips and falls. The two can only find success as a team, the way real life dog/human duos do in the military. The nonfiction text provides a lot of background and a factual basis while "Officer Buckle and Gloria" enthralls the reader with it's comedic value. For that reason the two texts make a great pair.

Shelley says

This is a great book about the history of service dogs with a focus on dogs in the military. Covering a timeline from as far back as the first military dog, to the dog used when Navy SEALs conducted the raid on Osama bin Laden, it is very thorough in information even though the book is fairly short. The book also covers where service dogs come from, their training, and where they go when they are taken out of service. This is a great book to spark interest in future military dog handlers and very informative to command respect for our 4 legged officers.

Grades 4 and up would enjoy this book.
