

Soldier's Heart

By Author, Gary Paulsen

Reviewed by: Writisha 13

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Charley Goddard (15) enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteers in June of 1861, when the American Civil War first broke out. He lied about his age to get in, so he could earn eleven dollars a month and experience the adventure of a lifetime. But he was not prepared for the horrible truth of war, and the terrible ordeals he faced changed his life forever.

I liked this book. Charley Goddard was a real soldier, and many parts of the story actually happened (however, he did not really fight in all of the battles mentioned). He died when he was only 23 years old, not too long after the war ended. His character development was beautifully written, as he went from a confident kid to a hardened young man who had lived through the worst of the war. It really brings to light the horrors of the Civil War and everything the soldiers had to endure, whether they were fighting for the North or the South.

I recommend this book for ages 11 and up, because there is a lot of violence and some gory descriptions of war and bloodshed, but nothing too disturbing. While I did enjoy this book, I don't think I would read it again, so I would suggest borrowing it from the library.

Recommended Titles:

Purple Heart by Patricia McCormick

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson

Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco

Refugee by Alan Gratz