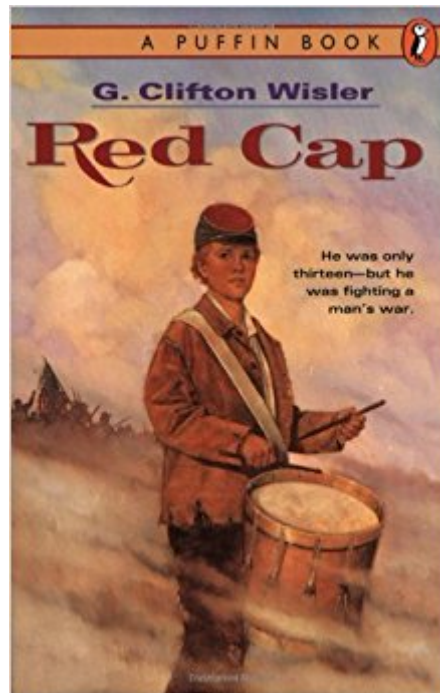




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Red Cap



Synopsis

R.J. thought that war would be the ultimate adventure—until he was in the middle of it. In 1862, thirteen-year-old Ransom J. Powell lies about his age and joins the Union Army as a drummer boy. At first, he is thrilled to be defending his country, but by the time he has been in his first skirmish he sees war for the brutal horror that it is. Then he and his regiment are captured and taken to Camp Sumter, a Confederate prison. With its disease and cruel guards, Camp Sumter is worse than any battlefield, and Ransom watches his friends die one by one. Will he be next?"A sober but important contribution to the growing number of Civil War novels."—Booklist "Vibrant characters and realistic war and prison scenes combine to make [this] a compelling book."—School Library Journal

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These vivid historical novels each center on an imperiled male protagonist: in the first, a 13-year-old lies about his age to enlist in the Union Army, while The Raid brings danger for 14-year-old Lige when his brother is kidnapped in an Indian attack. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

G. Clifton Wisler is the author of more than sixty-three books, many of them historical fiction for young adults. His ability to bring history alive in accessible and engaging ways make him a popular author for young readers. Mr. Wisler lives in Plano, Texas, where he continues to work on his doctoral dissertation on the history of the Ninth Texas Infantry Regiment in the Civil War.

great product, great value, great seller!!

This book was well written & well researched. Wisler told a compelling story of a 13 year old who lies his way into the Union Army during the civil war and who is eventually captured & sent to Andersonville prisoner or war camp. This book is great for adults as well, for anyone interested in a historical novel about how the Civil War was. I highly recommend it.

This book tell a story about a young boys life in the Civil War. From the moment he leaves home on this exciting adventure he sees war and prison life for what it is. It shows that even the person has in prisoned him can show acts of kindness and become friends. With the way Wisler wrights his book. You see war for what it really is through the eyes of 13 year old boy. At times this book just tares at your sole.

Great Storytelling and true! Perfect for kids...and adults!

Perfect!

Bought this for my 12 year old grandson, who is avid about the Civil War. I read the first few pages, and the author writes in a way about this character which is absorbing and real to the time.

I personally loved "Red Cap." If you're reading this for school, you (or your teacher) picked a good choice! I even wrote a basic summary of the book (if you're writing a book report or something and you just can't think of what to write!). You can thank me later. ;) This is a story about a young Yankee drummer, Ransom J. Powell that left his home because all of his friends were signing up for the army. Ransom wasn't allowed by his parents to become a drummer in the army because of his lack of height, and because he was too young. He left home without telling his family to become one of the Union Army's drummers. He said that he was 15 when he was really only 13, and he was very short, so some people had suspicions. He didn't think or know that war would be the terrible, horror occurrence that it is. Ransom's home is in Frostburg, Maryland. Mostly, the book takes place in Georgia, Virginia, and Maryland. Ransom traveled to Piedmont, on the Maryland-Virginia border to sign up for the Union Army. This story took place in 1862; during the civil war period. Later in the story, Ransom is captured in a side battle (known now as the Battle of Moorefield Junction in

January of 1864) and is shipped by train into Libby Prison camp, Andersonville from Richmond. The most important historical people mentioned in the book are Ransom Powell (Red Cap), Lewis Jones, and Captain Wirz. One of the 2 most important conflicts in the novel is the fighting against the rebs. The rebs constantly attacked the Union Army when the Union Army traveled through (Winchester) Virginia, and on the steep, rocky soil of Droop Mountain. They even killed Ransom's friend Danny, who was also a drummer, and at age 14, lied about his age. Ransom was very upset about this and had a hard time overcoming his friends' death. Another important conflict was at Andersonville. Ransom was against the nature, his shelter, and the fatigue that his body suffered. To him, it was like a nightmare; he was starving, not clothed well, and the guards abused him. There were also mosquitoes and deadly blood-thirsty centipedes, which only added to the problem-Ransom felt terrible all the time. The most important decision in this novel is when Ransom decides to leave his home, like his friends, to join the Union Army, at only age 13 and barely over 4 and a half feet tall. Even though his friends were killed in the war, he wanted to go too, to prove himself. He left at night when his parents were sleeping to head for Piedmont. The novel ended when the Union Army wanted to trade naval prisoners. Ransom lied and said he was one and was sent back home. Ransom also was given money-close to a hundred and twenty dollars-for his fighting in war and every day he was in Libby Prison. There weren't any unresolved issues-Ransom was happy because soon he was going to be sent home. Ransom was shipped back by a fourth-class carriage that traveled to Cumberland, Maryland so he could go see his family. He departed from Hank, his friend, at the end of the story and wished him the best of luck.

In the acknowledgements at the end of the book, Mr. Wisler admits that it took seven years to research and write "Red Cap." The attention to historical detail, often lacking in YA historical fiction, clearly shows. This is an adult story written to a YA vocabulary level, not a children's story trying to act grown up. The history that the novel is based upon is detailed in the epilogue. If not familiar with the details of the Civil War, it may benefit the reader to "cheat" and read these pages first.

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