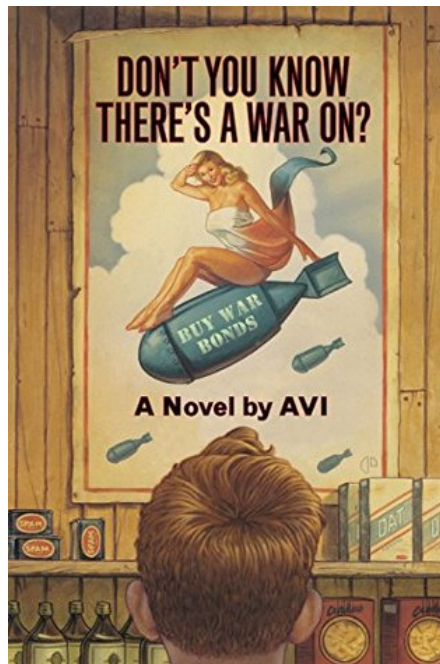




Don't You Know There's a War On?

Avi

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Don't You Know There's a War On? Avi

World War II is on everyone's mind and in every headline, and Howie Crispers has a hunch that his school principal is a spy. With a little snooping around, Howie finds out something even more alarming. Principal Lomister may not be a spy, but he is plotting to get rid of Howie's favorite teacher. Howie's dad is fighting Nazis overseas, and his mom is working hard to support the war effort, so Miss Gossim is the only person Howie can depend on. With the help of his friends, and a plan worthy of radio show superhero Captain Midnight, Howie intends to save Miss Gossim!

Don't You Know There's a War On? Details

Date : Published March 8th 2016 by HarperCollins (first published January 1st 2001)

ISBN :

Author : Avi

Format : Kindle Edition 218 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Fiction, War, World War II, Childrens, Middle Grade

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From Reader Review Don't You Know There's a War On? for online ebook

Dylan says

My favorite of Avi's novels. The most involved I ever felt in a story as a kid was while reading this. It was gripping, funny, romantic, and ultimately devastating. One of the very, very few books I never forgot.

Sue says

Not my favorite of the Avi books I've read, he wrote about the life of a fifth grade boy during WWII trying to cope with the things happening in his life. The switching between the ah shucks, if I don't pass my math test, my mom won't let me go to the movies, daydreaming about his cute teacher, who is being fired for getting pregnant and being somewhat worried about his father on a ship didn't work for me. Might be more appropriate for Middle school readers.

Cael B. says

I really liked this book and I liked the time period it was set in. I also like when the author had suspense in parts and the way he makes you sad when Denny's dad dies.

Ron Popp says

So I came across this book on a list of WW2/Homefront books. I had no idea it was YA but it came in from the library and I decided to read it....it took less than a day.

It's cute and a good introduction to the time period for its intended audience (hence the 4 stars). I can't say I enjoyed it much but had I read it when I was 8 or 9, I probably would have loved it.

Regan Wimsatt says

A perfect read for World War II lesson in 5th or 6th grade.

Claudia says

RECORDED BOOOKS (unabridged) 2003, narrated by Nick Landrum.

Cass: I can't figure out how to add the audio cassette version, so I've attached my review to the paperback listing.

(CIP) In wartime Brooklyn in 1943, eleven-year-old Howie Crispers mounts a campaign to save his favorite teacher from being fired.

(Claudia) For the narration alone, *Don't You Know...* is an irresistible read, as Howie Crispers confidentially gives us the scoop on his wartime (WWII) experiences in Brooklyn during his 5th grade year ... in marvelous period slang, ably performed by Nick Landrum. Howie is a believable, and likable, pre-adolescent, worrying about his Dad (in the merchant marine), falling for his strict but beautiful teacher, trying to uncover an unpopular principal as a spy ... There's plenty of period detail and some homefront perspective on the war, all well integrated into an active plot that keeps Howie—and the reader's attention—moving briskly along. Gr. 4-7

(SLJ) "This fast-paced, realistic, and heartwarming story will be appreciated by young readers."

(Booklist) "... an affectionate comedy ... Avi keeps the story-telling light, with fast dialogue and lots of lively detail."

Tanner Markle says

Title: *Don't You Know There's a War On?*

Author: Avi

Genre: Historical Fiction

Theme(s): War, Family, Friendship

Opening line/sentence: I was late that Monday morning because my shoelace broke just as I was leaving for school.

Brief Book Summary: Howie and his best friend have a crush on their teacher who they discover is going to be fired. The story of their discovery and eventual saving of her job takes place over 7 days (The books' entirety covers these 7 days).

Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

Kevin Beach (VOYA, June 2001 (Vol. 24, No. 2))

Buying a book by Avi is probably a given for most libraries, and this one does not disappoint. Eleven-year-old Brooklynite Howard narrates the sad but exciting days on the home front during World War II. Howie and his best friend, Denny, both have fathers who are away fighting war, and the boys do their part by collecting scraps for the war effort. They spend their school days reading comic books, sharing a crush on their teacher, Miss Gossim, and imagining that certain people, especially their principal, are Nazi spies. Then Howie tails the suspicious principal and discovers while eavesdropping that he is planning to fire Miss Gossim. He soon uncovers the reason for her dismissal and learns that she sorely misses her husband, also in the war. As good-hearted Howie struggles with math tests, follows the war in the newspaper, and joins his friends for the Saturday matinee, he also is determined to save Miss Gossim's job. A plan soon emerges, and there are many surprises, both poignant and happy, before the end of the novel. Avi has written more than twenty books for children and young adults, and in this one he creates a realistic slice of life from America's war years. It should prove both entertaining and educational to upper elementary and middle school readers. PLB \$15.89. VOYA CODES: 4Q 3P M J (Better than most, marred only by occasional lapses; Will appeal with pushing; Middle School, defined as grades 6 to 8; Junior High, defined as grades 7 to 9). 2001, HarperCollins, 208p, \$15.95. Ages 11 to 15.

(PUBLISHER: HarperCollins Library (New York,), PUBLISHED: 2001.)

Professional Recommendation/Review #2:

Betty Hicks (Children's Literature)

During the war...it was us kids who had the job of trying to keep things normal." These are the words of sixteen-year-old Howie looking back five years to his life at Public School Number Eight in Brooklyn in 1943. The ordinary memories of the 40s--Junior G-Men, the Brooklyn Dodgers, Ovaltine--are juxtaposed with not-so-ordinary war headlines, the necessity for scrap metal collection and the threat of unwelcome telegrams. Howie's innocent lust for his beautiful teacher is as timeless as the home front setting is specific, giving the worries of wartime a refreshing perspective alongside the daily predicaments of being eleven. Howie is an honorable and likeable kid who stumbles on a secret that is just too good to keep, though he tries mightily. His voice is fresh with the wholesomeness of 40s slang and the ageless irreverence of just being a boy. Especially well-crafted are lifelike dialogues that zip with brevity and wit that will keep readers grinning. As Howie schemes to prevent the firing of his favorite teacher, readers will discover how different it was growing up in the wartime 40s, and delight in the things that have remained the same. 2001, HarperCollins, \$15.95. Ages 8 to 12.
(PUBLISHER: HarperCollins (New York:), PUBLISHED: c2001.)

Response to Two Professional Reviews: I agree that this is a great historical fiction story. It reminds me a lot of Bud, Not Buddy in the way that it is a completely separate story that takes place during an important historical period.

Evaluation of Literary Elements: The dialogue within the story is briefly mentioned in the reviews but it is a huge part of the story. The element of the dialogue really captures the reader and helps paint a wonderful setting. The book also does a good job of incorporating the element of different family structures.

Consideration of Instructional Application: I think this would be a great book to introduce the idea of writing letters and families received letters from their loved ones fighting over seas in the book. I think we could take this idea and have the class write letters to our troops, or some organization, introducing themselves and thanking the group for their service.

Rona Karen says

Avi is one of my favorite authors and I've read most of his books. So I think the reason I give this one only 3 stars is the comparison I made with his other works. The first part of the book didn't hook me at all and I almost put it down but since it is a short read, I just gave it a go. I love Denny's character, in fact, I like him better than Howie. Though Howie is also adorable. The mystery around Mrs. Gossim's character wasn't so much intriguing. I guess it lacks depth unlike the other characters Avi has written on his other books. I like the 'blackout' part. It made me feel nostalgic about the outage days that we had in the past and I could relate to the looking up at the stars and seeing them better when everywhere is dark. Overall, it was okay but this book pales in comparison to Avi's other works.

Mahie says

This book was written by Avi, the use of old literature and the characters involved kept the readers engaged, and made the book sound more interesting. Just the ending was a bit off, but the intro and main story was really good.

Cortnei Brown says

"Don't You Know There's A War on?" takes place in Brooklyn, New York with a family that revolves mainly around an 11 year old by the name of, Howard "Howie" Crispers. At the time, Howie was in the 5th grade while the war was taking place. He attended school along side his pal, Denny Coleman. Both Denny and Howie's fathers were in the war. Howie's teachers name was Ms. Gossim. She was in the same predicament because her husband was also in the war along with their fathers.

I like this book because it is an inspirational book and basically talks about how no one is by themselves in a bad situation and that they have each other. The characters always have each others backs through the rough times. I also like how the class and teachers treat each other like family. My favorite part of the book was when Howie and the students tried to help their teacher during a rough time in her life. I would recommend this book to people that are having bad times and can't see good through the bad because this book is a good example of not letting anything keep you down and just follow your heart.

Rating: 5 stars

Tino says

This book is about how one character lives a normal life in world war 2 and how he tries to save his favorite teacher from getting fired. Since Howie's dad is fighting the Nazi's over seas and his mom is trying everything in her power to support the war, Miss Gossim is the only person Howie can depend on.

Massimo says

Hi, my name is Howie Crispers. I live on a big street and there are lots of kids in it. I go to a school where most kids go and we have lots of fun at school. Our teacher is Miss Gossim and she is really fun. My best friend is Denny, we go on many adventures together. I recommend this story to readers that like happy and sad stuff.

Carl Williams says

Sixteen year old Howie Crispers narrates this story about his 11 year old, 5th grade self. In Brooklyn during the Second World War shortages and facing shortages and anxiety of the unknown whereabouts of parents and others serving, Howie lives like most preteens—grudgingly watching his little sister, sharing secrets—and crushes—with best friend, and taking risks in the adventures his world offers him.

The story is full of dialog heavily peppered with wonderful innocent slang of the era ("Holy smokereno!" "Jiminy." "Wilikers." "Tell me another one while that one's still warm.") and a palatable flavor of life on the homefront for kids. There's a real feel of Brooklyn and you can (as I did) follow the story on a map and get the sense of Howie's Brooklyn Heights neighborhood.

Good stuff. Highly recommended—especially for reluctant (especially boys as the main characters are all boys) late elementary/middle school readers, anyone interested in cultural history (Avi really captures a slice of wartime life at home from a youngster's perspective), and aficionados of Brooklyn (as I have become over the last 3 or 4 years).

April says

Even though this book is 13 yrs old - older than my students I read it with - like most AVI works it is timeless. We laughed, and we cried and everything doesn't always end with happy ever after. My students were especially intrigued to find out what happened to Denny and his mom after the war - they felt they were left hanging. Many said it needed a sequel...hmmm, maybe a new boo idea for you AVI!

Carolyn says

wide reading for CI 546

grade level: 4th/5th grade reading level-wise, middle school content level-wise

genre: historical fiction.

themes: war, spies, friendship, promises, secrets

school use: Great way to dip kids into WWII--from a kid standpoint. rather than "what was it like to be in the war" this book looks at "what was it like to be a kid while this war was going on." also lots of neat details re: censorship of military letters, women at work, blackouts, etc. = stuff that it's hard to get a flavor for from, say, one's social studies textbook.

review: Really enjoyed this. Lots of great Brooklyn details (I lived near Hicks Street for awhile!). Some really fun sleuthing going on. I think kids would really be able to relate to that idea of promising to keep a secret...but figuring out that what you really need to do to be a good person in that scenario is to share the secret. Also I think it's great to show kids taking a stand, fighting for what they believe in (in this case, their teacher keeping her job!) even when they know the adults may not agree.

Particularly loved this description: I was in the basement all right. It was long, low, and hot, with stale, dusty air thick as butterscotch pudding.
