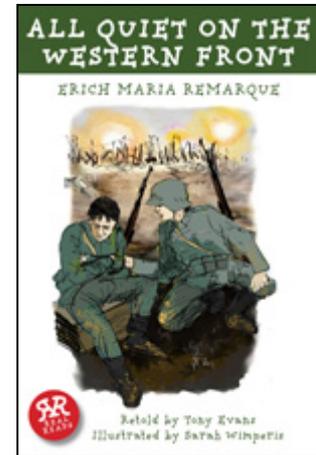
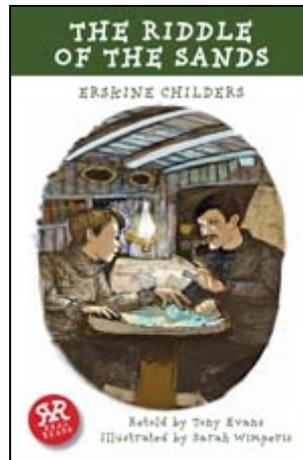
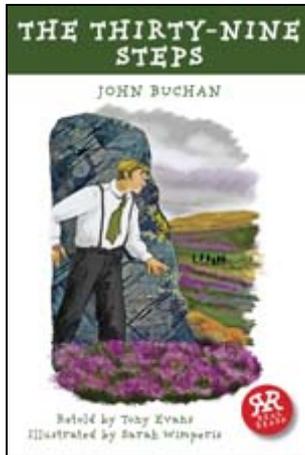


Literature of the First World War retold for children.

“Those who fail to learn from the mistakes of their predecessors are destined to repeat them.”
George Santayana.



2014 marks the centenary of the start of World War I. With wide TV and radio coverage of that tumultuous period of history, readers are turning to its literature. But what is available for children?

Real Reads has published retellings of three key works of the period.

In *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Remarque gives a first-person account of a German youth's battlefield experiences. As we grow to care for Paul and his friends, we cannot escape the futility, insanity and brutality of war.

John Buchan's stirring *The Thirty-nine Steps* offers courage, adventure and resourcefulness in a thrilling tale of pre-war international espionage.

In another spy story, Erskine Childers's *The Riddle of the Sands*, a young man on a sailing holiday finds himself at the centre of a German plot to invade England.

The characters in these stories, as human as we are now, transcend the decades. Through these titles, children will experience a world which might otherwise seem long-past; a world whose effects we still feel today. Exciting and entertaining, **Real Reads** WW1 titles will, without doubt, increase children's engagement with the First World War.

Real Reads are retellings of great literature from around the world, each fitted into a beautifully-illustrated, 64 page book. Although aimed at readers aged between 8-14, they appeal to a wider audience. As Director John Button says, 'Our books make classic stories, dramas and histories available to intelligent young readers as a bridge to the originals, to language students or anybody seeking access to other cultures, and to adult readers who might, for whatever reason, want a quick fix'.

Established in 2007, **Real Reads** now has a list of over 80 titles, with more on the way, and rights currently sold in 16 countries so far. The **Real Reads Oliver Twist**, retold by Gill Tavner, has already sold over 16,000 copies in the UK alone.

Drawn from the world's most influential and important writing, **Real Reads** offer a unique opportunity for international and cross-cultural understanding among the world's children. The ever-growing list currently includes titles from ten different countries, including UK, India, China, Greece, USA and Italy. These three titles are an important addition to our list.

Praise for Real Reads.

Real Reads titles have been praised and endorsed by names such as former Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, Allison Pearson of *The Telegraph*, author Jamila Gavin and Paul Trijbits, producer of the recent film version of *Jane Eyre*, among many others.

Not every child will get Dickens, but a chance to get to know him should be the birthright of every Briton. Break them in gently. Let schools show Lionel Bart's incandescent Oliver! Let younger ones learn the remarkable stories of Pip and Tiny Tim through Gill Tavner's excellent condensed Dickens Real Reads and prove that the vast human spirit under that slab in Westminster Abbey is not dead, only sleeping.

The Telegraph.

The Real Reads series is definitely held in high regard here at Scholastic – titles that are that elusive mix of teacher- and student-friendly. I only wish it existed when I was at school so that I knew what happened in the last two-thirds of *Jane Eyre*!
Lauren Nightingale, Scholastic Education

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