

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of Flo of the Somme by Hilary Robinson & Martin Impey

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

James McNichol, age 5 and mum

A truly wonderful children's book.

My 5 year old and I sat down to read this book together and we both thought it was wonderful.

It introduces the First World War to children in a gentle way.

The rhythmical poetry was brilliant and the illustrations are just fabulous.

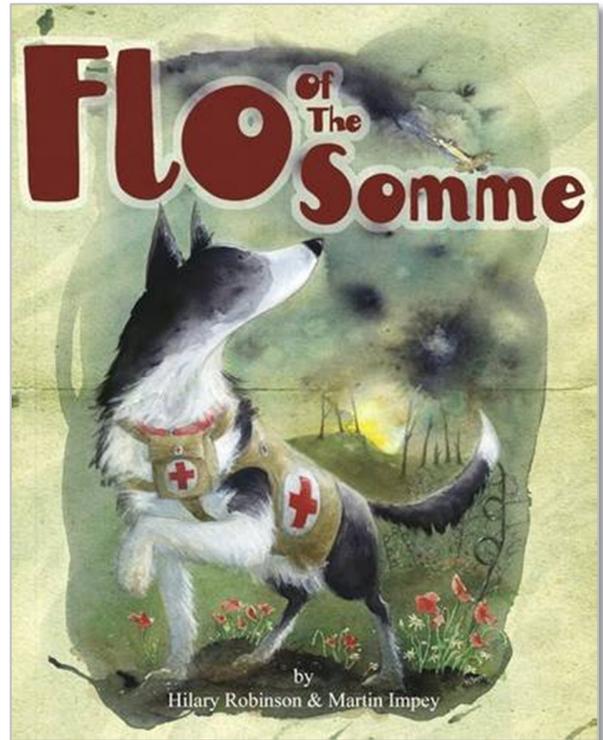
Every primary school and library should have a copy of this book.

Hermione Chaytors, age 6

Flo is incredible!

*I enjoyed this book even though it was quite scary to think of all of the poor animals that were in the middle of all of the fighting. I didn't know that so many animals were used in this way and it was nice to be able to read about the good jobs that they did and that they helped the men at war. **I loved the rhyming of the words but most of all I loved Flo because she was such a good helper and she looks just like my Border Collie dog who is called Flossie!***

I would now like to read 'Where The Poppies Now Grow.'



Ava Townsend, age 5

This story is about a special dog called Flo. The book has amazing pictures which tell lots of separate stories.

The book is about an amazing dog who saved lives during the war.

I learned that soldiers put messages on the feet of pigeons, Flo the dog, was used to carry medical kits and he was able to find injured pilots. Then they used donkeys for carrying soldiers who were hurt.

The injured pilots in the story became friends even though one had a black cross on the plane. This was my favourite part of the story.

I liked spotting the poppies growing on each page, I know that poppies, are used to help us remember.

I also spotted curious mice and cheeky rats on every page too!

The words repeat on each page but add on new lines as well. Some of the words rhyme.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the war or wants to learn about what the animals did to help.

Robert Anderson, age 5 and his mum

A wonderful, thoughtful picture book which sensitively introduces the subject of the Great War.

Initially, I was curious and somewhat dubious as to how the author would construct a picture book which would be appropriate for a young child. Consequently, I had a good look at it before reading it to my son. Hilary Robinson touches upon the subject matter with sensitivity and a certain gentleness. The illustrations are light and subtle.

My son was very interested in the maps and dates at the front and back of the book. This led to a brief explanation about the First World War (Where it took place, when....) He was interested in the significance of the red cross and asked what it stood for and why was Flo, the dog wearing a coat with it on. We were both liked the moment when Flo arrives back home to welcoming arms. My son was also happy to see that the pigeon survived and had his wing successfully mended.

A brilliant introduction to an important period of history. Not at all depressing, quite the reverse.

Phoenix, age 7

'Flo of the Somme' is an AMAZING poem book with beautiful illustration throughout. *The poem had a nice rhythm and flow that made it easy to read. I couldn't stop reading because I wanted to know what was going to happen next. Flo was very brave and it made me wonder what it would feel like to be a war hero. ***** INCREDIBLE*

Romilly Dally-Fitzsimons, age 8

This is a beautiful book that tells the story of a dog called Flo during the First World War.

I really loved this book. The pictures in it are very beautiful. The book is about a dog called Flo who was a mercy dog and she worked during the First World War. The book is like a poem, which I really liked. The story is about all the danger that happens to Flo and the people during the War. This book is good because it tells you about the animals and how they worked and helped during the war, and that they were heroes. I would recommend anyone to read this book.

Isabel, age 8

Lovely pictures and an interesting subject.

I didn't know much about the First World War and was surprised to read about how the animals helped in the war. I loved reading about Flo and her bravery.

Ellie Limbert, age 5

*I liked the way the story followed the dog and I learned about all the ways they helped in the war. The way it was repeated helped me to remember the story. I also liked the pictures as they made it easy to understand. I know now that animals helped in the fighting. **I enjoyed it and would recommend it to my friends. I also think it would be good to talk about and read in school.***

Cassandra Butler, age 6

I really liked this story as it shows how brave the animals were during the war.

I really liked this book even though it was quite sad to learn that animals were used in the war, but good that they helped so many people. Flo was my favourite animal as she was so brave to help and save so many people and I like dogs.

I liked the way the story is a rhyming one with a new line added on each page and the pictures were brilliant.

I'm a Beaver scout and I know about the significance of poppies and I enjoyed looking for them on some of the pages.

Cassandra's Mum

*I have 3 children that are all aware of the subject of the Great Wars. **This book is just amazing as it gives a different perspective on the war that is appropriate for younger children. My daughter loved the bit where Flo gets home safely.***

Miranda and Sabina Beinart-Smith, age 9 and 7

This book was about the war (WW1) and a mercy dog who helped out by saving injured soldiers using his medical kit. He also helped Ray the stretcher-bearer to find the hurt people.

***We really liked this book because it had really pretty and detailed illustrations and a beautiful, moving story to go with it.** Our favourite part was how it starts with one line and then repeats it, adding on something else as well. It's a cumulative story just like 'This is the house that Jack built.' The reason we like it so much is because of the rhythm and the way it's so poetic. From this book, we also learnt that lots of animals were used during the war to help lead the soldiers to victory. The animals include: dogs, donkeys, pigeons and horses.*

This book is suitable for anyone who can read and the pictures make it especially accessible for younger children.