

THE GREAT READ

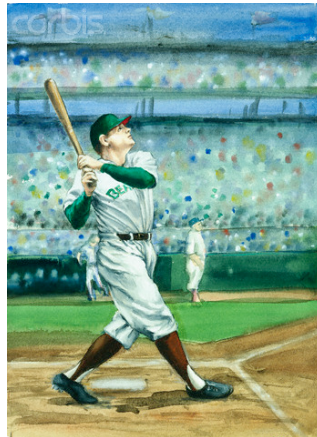
Read the book, attend special events, have a great time!

This year's book selection is:

PLAYING WITH THE ENEMY

By Gary Moore

The true story of a 15 year old baseball star who signs with the Brooklyn Dodgers and only months later becomes a World War II Navy soldier. While guarding German prisoners of war this baseball star/soldier teaches the prisoners how to play baseball . . . with unexpected, life-altering consequences.



Related Websites

Baseball Sites

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum: Has information about the greatest baseball players and events of all time. <http://web.baseballhalloffame.org/index.jsp>

“Baseball: The Movie” A Documentary: A film containing live baseball footage of the past. <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/baseball/>

The History of Baseball: Explains the history of baseball from its beginning in the 1800's. http://www.rpi.edu/~fiscap/history_files/history1.htm

The Official Site of Minor League Baseball: Contains information on past and present players of the minor leagues. <http://web.minorleaguebaseball.com/index.jsp>

How Baseball Works: Gives you all the information you need to know about playing the game of baseball. <http://www.howbaseballworks.com/>

Baseball Legends: Information, statistics and more of the greatest baseball players of all time. <http://baseballlegends.wordpress.com/>

World War II Sites

The Museum of Science and Industry U-505 Submarine Site: Information about the U-505 German submarine that was captured in World War II and which plays a major role in the book “Playing With the Enemy.” <http://www.msichicago.org/whats-here/exhibits/u-505/>

The Enigma Machine (The Decoder of German messages during the war.) This site explains what the enigma machine was and how it was used. <http://www.2worldwar2.com/enigma.htm>

Submarines in World War II. Gives information on the types of submarines used during World War II and the soldiers who lived on them. <http://americanhistory.si.edu/Subs/history/subsbeforenuc/ww2/index.html>

Children of World War II. This site gives glimpses into the lives of youth who lived during World War II. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2children/>

Life in the U.S. after World War II. Presents information on what it was like to rebuild lives after World War II ended. <http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/archive/2006-12/2006-12-28-voa1.cfm>

“Playing With The Enemy” book and movie sites

The homepage of the book “Playing With The Enemy”. This site gives information on the synopsis of the book, the author, how the book came to be written and more. <http://www.playingwiththeenemy.com/>

The town of Sesser, Illinois (the setting for “Playing With The Enemy”). This site provides information both past and present about the town of Sesser, Illinois. <http://www.sesser.org/>

“The Great Read” program of events and more. This site has information on all of the upcoming events and additional information for “The Great Read.” <http://www.learningcommunity202.org/greatread/index.htm>



The U-505 Submarine being captured in the Pacific (June, 1944).

Related Databases (online encyclopedias, books and more)

Thomson Gale Student Resource Center Silver

Thomson Gale Student Resource Center Silver is a digital resource (meaning it gives you digital images and content from books, journals, newspapers, books and more.) To get to this site go to the Plainfield Public Library's homepage at www.painfield.lib.il.us and click on ONLINE RESOURCES tab at the top of the library's homepage. Scroll down until you see Thomson Gale Student Resource Center Silver --- CLICK ON the link --- then ENTER YOUR LIBRARY BARCODE NUMBER from the back of your library card. For the following search the words "World War II" were entered. This is a sample of what was found:

World War II (1939-1945) was an international conflict involving 61 countries that mobilized over 100 million people for military service in four geographic regions: Europe, Asia, Africa, and the South Pacific. The **war** left 55 million people dead (30 million civilian and 25 million military), cost over one trillion dollars, and resulted in more material destruction than any other armed conflict in history. The United States emerged from the **war** as the most powerful nation in the **world**, while the Soviet Union gained a stronghold over Eastern Europe.

The **war** pitted the Allied Powers (the United States, Canada, Australia, Great Britain, France, Russia, and China, among others) against the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, Japan, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, and others). The leading figures for the Allies were U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-**1945**), British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (1940-**1945**, 1951-1955), and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin (1928-1953). The Axis was led by German dictator Adolph Hitler (1933-**1945**), Italian dictator Benito Mussolini (1922-1943), and Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo (1941-1944).

Source Citation: "World War II." *Gale Encyclopedia of U.S. Economic History*. Ed. Thomas Carson and Mary Bonk. Detroit: Gale Group, 1999.

Related Books, Magazines, Movies and Software

Baseball Digest Magazine: Is the oldest and only baseball magazine in the country. It contains information on baseball history, one-on-one interviews with current and past baseball great and baseball statistics past and present.

American History Magazine: Stories and essays about America's past come alive in this magazine.

The Rookie: The Incredible True Story of a Man Who Never Gave Up on His Dream. By Jim Morris. This is the true story of a physics teacher who always wanted to play major league baseball and eventually does in part because of his "never give up" attitude.

Field of Dreams. 1989 (Movie) The story of an Iowa farmer who hears a voice in the corn tell him to build a baseball field where magic things will happen.

The Natural. 1984 (Movie) The story of an unknown baseball player with a mysterious past and a bat cut from a tree struck by lightning.

U-571. 2000 (Movie) The story of a battle aboard a submarine during World War II.

Interactive Baseball Timeline. This product lets you drag your cursor across the baseball diamond and related time line and learn about the history of baseball. <http://funschool.kaboose.com/fun-blaster/baseball/interactive/index.html>

World War II Audio Clips Library. Listen to audio clips from actual radio programs during World War II. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/history/worldwar2audioclipslibrary.shtml>



American soldiers fighting in the Pacific in World War II; many of them only 18 years old.

Key Words and Search Strategies

Helpful Key Words to Search

- World War 1939-1945
- Battle of the Bulge
- The Pacific Arena
- Professional Baseball
- Baseball, History of
- United States History, 19th Century

Extension Ideas

1. Contact your local VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) go get additional information on World War II veterans who would enjoy sharing their war experiences with you and for information on veteran's who played baseball in the armed forces. For more information contact: Steve Fry of the Plainfield VFW at (630) 679-0629.
2. The Plainfield Public Library is looking for students to help with the "War Veteran's Memorial Project" (which includes interviewing veterans, creating art work related to the veterans' stories and more) contact Suzanne Ross sross@plainfield.lib.il.us or at (630) 373-9113 for more information.
3. The University of Notre Dame Baseball Team comes yearly to Plainfield South High School. If you would like to meet the team members and ask them questions about playing in college and being drafted into the majors (which some of them have been) contact Jill Smith at Plainfield South High School for more information at jsmith@district202.org.
4. To get free tickets to the Museum of Science and Industry's U-505 Submarine exhibit contact the Plainfield Public Library which has a "Check Us Out" Program Bag for the museum. The program bag contains one family pass to all exhibits at the Museum of Science and Industry. For more information contact Judi Deszch at that Plainfield Public Library at jdeszch@plainfield.lib.il.us.
5. Want to join the theater group that is performing "short" scenes from the book "Playing With the Enemy"? Youth of all ages are welcome! Contact Becky Woods at Jefferson Middle School at (630) 679-0001. All practices will be held at the Plainfield Public Library.



Baseball in the 1940's.

About the Great Read



The Great Read was created in 2004 to promote literacy, reading, conversation and community in the greater Plainfield area. The Great Read programs offer a wide array of events from reading the book, to watching related movies, listening to speakers, tasting the food of the day, learning about life during the time of the book's setting and much, much more. Please join us for one of our ongoing programs. We look forward to seeing you there.

Created by Suzanne Ross for "The Great Read" on February 19, 2009.

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1. The topic of this pathfinder is "The Great Read Program and the 2009 book selection, *Playing With the Enemy* by Gary Moore."
2. The purpose and intended use of this pathfinder is for youth to first of all "notice it" as it is available in the library and in schools. And to use it to either participate in the program simply for pleasure or to use the program's resources for academic purposes or BOTH.
3. There are a number of outstanding resources available electronically and additionally if none or only a few were listed it is believed that youth would not be as interested in the pathfinder as a whole.
4. I looked at a large number of resources and only chose those which I thought were from reputable/high quality sources OR that had been referenced in a reputable/high quality source. For example: I was going to use a few websites that looked like they were "interesting" but I could not figure out who created them --- so I chose not to use a few sites like this. Also, I tried to do research on baseball, World War II and related topics and use resources that were mentioned a number of times in the quality sources that I selected for my initial research.
5. Provide keywords, search strategies, and ideas for locating additional resources. Please see information provided in the actual Pathfinder. (Thanks.)
6. Include your name and the project creation date. Your professional affiliation and email address are optional.
Suzanne Ross, Completed on February 23, 2009, ross@plainfield.lib.il.us at the Plainfield Public Library, Plainfield, Illinois.