



Grenade

By Alan Gratz

Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions:

1. One of the main characters in this book is labeled as a coward from his birth because of something one of his ancestors did. What do you think makes a person a coward?
2. One of the main characters in the book is 13. The other is a recent high school graduate. Both are soldiers in the war. Think about yourself being forced to fight in a war when you were only 13. What were you doing on a normal day at age 13 in your life?
3. Unfortunately, even though World War II is over, there are many child soldiers around the world in corrupt countries. Read this article to learn more about child soldiers today <https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-child-soldiers> .

Post-reading questions:

1. Think about Hideki and Ray. Their story lines were separate but interconnected. What was the difference in your feelings when reading as Ray versus Hideki?
2. Grenade story has many intense scenes. However, these were a reality during World War II. Think about Ray's struggle after the boy sniper and Hard Luck were killed. Do you think Sergeant Meredith's explanation would have comforted you?
3. Explain why Ray choose to become a soldier even though his father's war experience still haunted him.
4. Explain how Hideki's feelings about being a coward changed from the beginning of the book until the end.
5. How was the theme of the book intertwined with significance of the pictures that Hideki carried?
6. Choose one quote from the book that you found to be moving or memorable. Explain why you choose this quote.

Post-reading Activities

1. Read the "Author's Note" at the end of the book. What did you find to be the most impactful from these pages?
2. Do more research about child soldiers and then create an infographic sharing your findings. Create the infographic following the Tome Competition guidelines at www.tomesociety.org/competitions to submit your competition for Tome.
3. Create a "If you liked Grenade by Alan Gratz" book list. Make a list of other suggested books for readers who enjoyed "Grenade."

More About This Book

- Q & A with the Author: <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-authors/article/78345-q-a-with-alan-gratz.html>
- Book Trailer: https://youtu.be/Hv5suGHVp_4
- If you got the chance to ask the author of this book one question, what would it be? Post a video with your question to the Flipgrid. (Who knows, the author might just hop on to answer a couple of questions). FlipGrid Topic Link: <https://flipgrid.com/2b335e4a>
- Check out the authors' official websites at: <https://www.alangratz.com/>