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**Richard Peck**

**On the Wings of Heroes**



Title: On the Wings of Heroes

Author: Richard Peck

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## Description

Davy Bowman's brother and their dad hung the moon. Dad looks forward to Halloween more than a kid, and Davy's brother, Bill, flies B-17s. Davy adores these two heroes and tries his best to follow their lead, especially now. World War II has invaded Davy's homefront boyhood. There's an air raid drill in the classroom, and being a kid is an endless scrap drive. Bill has joined up, breaking their dad's heart. It's an intense, confusing time, and one that will invite Davy to grow up in a hurry.

Still, Richard Peck is a master of comedy, and even in this novel of wartime uncertainty, he infuses his tale with humor: oddballs and rascals and boyhood misadventures alongside the poignant moments. This is one of Richard Peck's very finest novels—a tender, unforgettable portrait of the World War II homefront and a family's love.

## Insightful reviews

Sue Leatherman: Davy Bowman remembers, "Nobody was a stranger before the war."

The Illinois neighborhood rang with the sounds of children playing hide-and-seek, of neighbors sharing stories on their front porch, and of laughter from the delights of successful Halloween antics. Davy Bowman's world is happy and safe because of his heroes, his Dad and his older brother Bill, who always seemed to find time to do things with Davy.

Pearl Harbor is bombed and Davy's world changes. His Dad becomes the local air raid warden and Bill goes off to become a B-17 bombardier, flying missions over Germany. There are air raid drills and endless scrap drives. New kids enroll in Davy's school, "eight-to-five orphans," whose mothers work at the local war plants. Everything is rationed, but the whole community pitches in to do their part for the war effort.

Davy still has his heroes to depend upon but soon he begins to discover that in his neighborhood there are other heroes and during the next few years he learns what sacrifice and courage really means.

In "On the Wings of Heroes," Newberry Medal-winning author Richard Peck's easy-going pace and sly humor captures the sense of community in Middle America before and during World War II. Reading it stirred up millions of memories of my own childhood neighbors and escapades and also helped me to gain a deeper understanding of what my parents and older siblings had to endure during the war.

It is an outstanding example of well written historical fiction that captures the heart and soul of families during war times, not only the wars of the past, but also the wars of the present. I highly recommend this book as a useful tool for teachers and counselors. I sincerely hope that grandparents and grandchildren, fathers and sons will also share this book. It is the beginning of discussion, of understanding, and perhaps even healing.

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Kristen: Richard Peck never disappoints. He may well be my favorite author. His books are always full of heart-warming, side-splitting, illuminating, and page-turning details. I. LOVE. HIM. Okay, maybe not HIM, but his writing, for sure.

I read this book in two days. Before you think I've shirked my motherly duties, let me say this: the book was a mere 148 pages. Easy to read half of the book after the chitlins have gone to bed. Especially when the read was such a good one.

Davy is enamoured with his two heroes: his father and his brother, Bill. His father served in WWI and his brother, Bill, is flying bombers in WWII. Davy is still in grammar school, and is doing all he can to help with the war effort at home.

I fell in love with his family. His dad was the big kid on the block and his mom catered to every need of her family. Bill and Davy, although several years apart in age, were so close.

I love how Peck recreates history. When you read one of his books, you feel as if you're actually there, living it with the characters of the novels. I learned so much about life on the homefront during the war ("the duration"). There are so many things I gleaned from it that I couldn't retain from reading a textbook. Besides, the book was much more entertaining anyway.

Additionally, he makes it FUN! I literally laughed out loud in several parts of the book, my favorite laughable character being Miss Titus (Peck describes her as being "a dried-up woman with a face like a walnut...[she:] was small and stringy, though of course she could blow you away...Miss Titus was the oldest woman in the United States (and she had a mama?)...[she:] looked like a walnut with a mustache.")

Just another feel-good and hysterical novel from Richard Peck. If you've not read his work, start with *A Long Way from Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*. You'll read them in two nights for two reasons: they're short and they're GOOD! Then just go from there. You'll be a fan from the get go.

Brooke: Richard Peck is amazing. He knows how to tell a story and he creates his worlds so completely I was transported back in time with eleven-year-old Davy Bowman to the 1940's. I wanted so badly to have my father read this and then tell me more of his stories. Sadly, that time has passed. But I will give it to my mother, who actually is closer in age to Davy in the time period, and see if she has any homefront memories she can share.

Of course, Peck told his story with warmth and humor. I was teary from both laughter and pathos.

Noah Miller: I learn the publication called, " at the Wings of Heroes" via Richard Peck. the tale happens in a small city in the USA in the course of international conflict II. Davy lives in a small city together with his mom, dad, and older brother Bill. the tale is ready Davy's lifestyles earlier than the conflict came. the aim of the writer scripting this book, is approximately how households

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replaced all through the United States end result of the war. the writer used to be displaying the significance of sacrifice, family, friendship, and community. Davy went via much while the warfare started, he got here from having a cheerful life, to changing into a no longer so strong lifestyles due to while the warfare came. pals from the neighborhood moved away so mom's may perhaps get jobs on the factories. the fashion of this writing was once narration, simply because many occasions occurred because the conflict came. whilst Pearl Harbor used to be bombed, that is what caused the war. that is what made existence switch for Davy. one other occasion is whilst Bill, Davy's older brother is going to the Air strength and flies in a bomber airplane to head and fight. My opinion of this tale could be, I beloved this tale since it happens in the course of global conflict 2. i admire books that speak approximately global conflict 2. the explanation i didn't like this publication is simply because i used to be hoping it'd be extra approximately international struggle 2 battles, than conversing approximately family members again home, additionally the tale did not speak a lot concerning the strive against the characters have been in. i might swap the tale to extra of a conflict story.

Kimberly: this is often my first Richard Peck booklet and i am certainly searching for more! a perfectly written coming-of-age tale it starts off whilst Davy is 10 or eleven prior to WWII and ends on the finish of the war. It had a similar normal consider to me as To Kill a Mockingbird-- the kid narrator with better grownup issues, neighbor characters, small city feeling, and powerful father figure. I enjoyed the characters and acquired goosebumps on the end. there are such a lot of WWII books for YA available in the market yet i believe like I now have a greater suggestion of what it was once wish to develop up in the course of that period and this booklet is the one one i will be able to think about that attached the WWI his father fought in to the WWII his brother used to be in. an exceptional e-book i'll learn to my kids!

Nanci: Richard Peck has a good way with phrases that makes you snort and believe as he describes lifestyles in over again and one other place. This one occurs in the course of global warfare II and describes lifestyles in the house of Davy Bowen. His dad had fought within the first global battle and his brother is education to be a bomber pilot for this moment international War. an outline of what's very important to a bit boy in this time and what he sees and feels in wonderful. i'm really not convinced i might have favored this loads while i used to be younger. My youngster did not want to choose it up at all. We had the CD within the automobile and it was once too darkish for her to learn the rest so she had no selection yet to hear withus. as soon as she began hearing it and listening to the descriptions she quite started to get pleasure from it. perhaps this is able to be an outstanding relations learn aloud e-book or anything to understand on a protracted motor vehicle ride.

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