

WAR STORIES

Coordinator: Sandra Freeman and Gloria Plesent

We humans are unique in our capacity to create and share stories about the most significant events of our lives. The experience of war, fueled by urgent memories and unforgettable images, has produced many great memoirs, novels, films and plays which salvage some essential truths of individual experience. These war stories may offer a redemptive solace for the writer and the possibility of a bonding connection for the reader. We read novels that explore the extraordinary diversity and the haunting similarity of the trauma of war. Unfortunately, war is a constant in world history and seems to be more and more a part of American life. Studying war in some of its aspects, past and present, may help us understand and cope with our plight.

Readings:

Pat Barker, *Regeneration*; Plume, 2013, ISBN 978-0142180594. \$12.20.

Willa Cather, *One of Ours*; Seven Treasures Publications, 2009, ISBN 978-1438284569. \$6.75.

Kevin Powers, *The Yellow Bird*; Back Bay Books, 2013, ISBN 978-0316219341, \$11.94.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *One half of a Yellow Sun*; Anchor, 2007, ISBN 978-1400095209, \$10.24.

Douglas Jacobson, *Night of Flames*; McBooks Press, 2008, ISBN 978-1590131664. \$13.79.

Sandy Freeman chaired the Speech/Theater Department at LIU.

Gloria Plesent's love of literature and her belief in its power to comfort and inspire us, along with her comparative literature masters degree, leads to her cross-disciplinary approach to fiction.

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We begin with Pat Barker's *Regeneration*.