

## War Brothers: The Graphic Novel by Sharon McKay

Jacob is a 14-year-old Ugandan who is sent away to a boys' school. Once there, he assures his friend Tony that they need not be afraid -- they will be safe. But not long after, in the shadow of the night, the boys are abducted. Marched into the jungle, they are brought to an encampment of the feared rebel soldiers. They are told they must kill or be killed, and their world turns into a terrifying struggle to endure and survive.

Why you'll like it: Spine-Tingling. War and society. Informative. Action-packed. Educational.

About the Author: Montreal born author Sharon E. McKay is well-known for her novels for young adults including *Charlie Wilcox*, *Charlie Wilcox*'s *Great War*, *Esther* and four novels in Penguin's "*Our Canadian Girl*" historical fiction series.

Her most recent works for young adults include *War Brothers*, a story of child soldiers in Uganda and the winner of the Arthur Ellis Award.

## **Questions for Discussion:**

- 1. What happens when you put the words "child" and "soldier" together?
- 2. Can you imagine your life as a child soldier? Discuss.
- **3.** Describe the cover of War Brothers. Talk about the colors used and the images portrayed.
- **4.** Can strangers develop a bond of friendship? Why do you think the title is called War Brothers?
- **5.** How is this story told? Do you think this novel could have been told using just words? Are the use of pictures (graphic novel format) helpful?
- **6.** What's the setting? (Describe the location of the book from the beginning, middle & end)
- 7. Is there enough being done about child soldiers?
- 8. What are 'Crimes Against Humanity'?
- Talk about the following characters: Jacob, Tony, Paul, & Norman Commander Oprio & Lizard Hannah, Oteka
- 10. What's the story about? Three boys are excited about going back to school even though they

understood the conflict surrounding their country.

- 11. Why do they feel safe at school? Do you feel safe going to school?
- **12.** When do thoughts of rescue shift to thoughts of escape?

(Questions issued by publisher)

