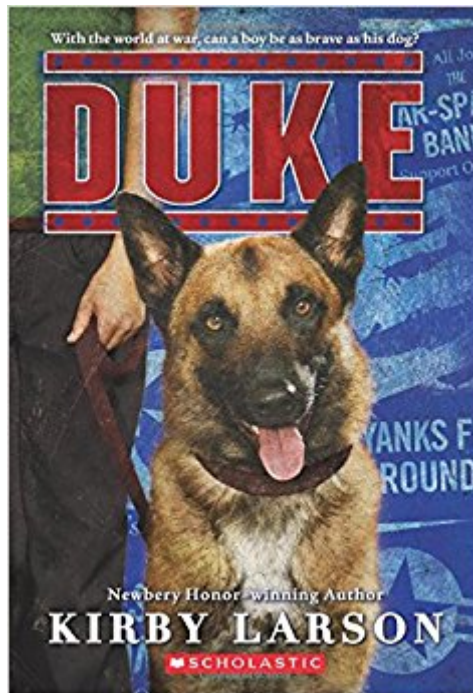


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# Duke (Dogs Of World War II)



## Synopsis

With World War II raging and his father fighting overseas in Europe, eleven-year-old Hobie Hanson is determined to do his part to help his family and his country, even if it means giving up his beloved German shepherd, Duke. Hoping to help end the war and bring his dad home faster, Hobie decides to donate Duke to Dogs for Defense, an organization that urges Americans to "loan" their pets to the military to act as sentries, mine sniffers, and patrol dogs. Hobie immediately regrets his decision and tries everything he can to get Duke back, even jeopardizing his friendship with the new boy at school. But when his father is taken prisoner by the Germans, Hobie realizes he must let Duke go and reach deep within himself to be brave. Will Hobie ever see Duke, or his father, again? Will life ever be the same?

## Book Information

Series: Dogs of World War II

Paperback: 240 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #344,396 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #252 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars](#) #1536 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#) #7949 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-7-A handsome German shepherd dominates the patriotic cover of Larson's World War II home-front novel, but the book's action centers on the dog's absence. Hobie Hanson, an endearingly earnest 11-year-old, loves his father, who is stationed overseas in the Army Air Corps, and his crackerjack dog named Duke. Determined to aid the war effort (and by extension his dad) any way he can, Hobie loans Duke to Dogs for Defense, a real-life organization that trained pets for

the military. Larson weaves a wonderfully genuine attachment between boy and dog and thoughtfully examines Hobie's conflicted emotions as Duke gets partnered with a battle-bound Marine; fearful, proud, and lonely, among other muddled feelings, the boy guiltily schemes to bring his pet home. The author peppers the novel with charming period and regional details—who knew about Wheato-Naks cereal or the Seattle fishing fleet's annual blessing ceremony?—and maintains a fairly sunny tone despite the premise's potential for tragedy. Smaller-scale tensions fail to engage, such as bullying by a meanie and manufactured quarrels between Hobie and his new friend, Max Klein. Both side plots could likely be resolved with a swift talking to from the mindful, swaggering, baseball-captaining Catherine, who is clearly the character with the best head on her shoulders. Larson's tale succeeds best as a study of the home-front experience and a poignantly dogless tale for dog lovers.—Robbin E. Friedman, Chappaqua Library, NY (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

With a war sweeping the world in 1944, Hobart "Hobie" Hanson's father flies B-24s in Europe, his mother serves the Red Cross in their Seattle neighborhood, and his little sister knits socks for soldiers. But is the fifth-grader, as a popular war slogan suggests, doing all he can? When Hobie hears about the Dogs for Defense program, he enlists his beloved pet, Duke, to serve with the armed forces. Instantly regretting his decision, Hobie tries to retrieve his dog as he also contends with his father's uncertain fate, constant insults from the school bully, and risking his friendship with a new student of German descent. Letters sent from Duke (and his trainer, of course) provide updates on the canine and insight into this little-known band of four-legged soldiers. Larson captures the time period with pop-culture references, such as the Hop Harrigan radio program, as well as with the war efforts back home, such as saving cooking fat to make explosives. A good example of how bravery comes in all shapes, sizes—and breeds. Grades 3-6. --Angela Leeper --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Not a very exciting book. It does capture perspective of a boy dealing with an absentee dad, who is flying a bomber in Europe for USA. The boy, Hobie, decides to give up his beloved dog to the Dogs for Defense program. Much of the book deals with his feelings of loss for his dog and ways he could get him back earlier than anticipated. My son, in 6th grade, liked the book more than me because it is about "a boy who loves his dog and a dog who loves the boy." So, if assigned a historical fiction

novel assignment this is a 4-star book from the child's perspective. As someone who reads the same book with my son, it is not a high-quality adult read. But, given the audience is not adults, the book merits 4-stars.

I thought that this book was good in different ways. I liked how it always kept me on my toes and it was just a little sad. Although it did have a lot of mixed emotions. The only thing I didn't like the ending I thought maybe it should tell about the party and how the dad walks in and they hug him. But otherwise I think it's good for age 8 and up I hope everyone else who reads this book enjoys it

Great perspective for pre-teens. My grandsons loved this book.

Such a terrific read. Great glimpse into the time period in the US and interesting to know that the dog program mentioned actually existed. Can't imagine sending your pet off to war but that was a time period where many made sacrifices! Adding this to a collection of books about WW2 for an eighth grade unit on the time period!

Duke was a gift for my grandson, a third grader who doesn't read much. He was spending the weekend with us and took the book up to bed with him. The next day he came to breakfast with the book and had finished reading it. He pronounced it "Awesome!"

I'm a retired librarian, but I try to keep up with what's good in children and teen books. This one slipped by me. My 4th grade granddaughter told me about it. It is very good.

My 10 year old used this for her book report on Historical Fiction. She did very well to complete the reading and was interested enough to retain enough to produce an excellent book report.

Love the concept of these stories. Great reads for early teens who love dogs!

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