

Geoffrey W Graham - Voices of War - An ANZAC Story

Dinkum Oz Entertainment for Schools



It was the war to end all wars, the Great War.

WWI is viewed with some ambivalence. A war of futility and sacrifice but a war that saw Australia come of age on the world stage.

It recognised the transformation from a convict settlement to a race of people that could hold their heads up with pride.

This war touched many people, not just the soldiers, but their families, relations and friends. Thousands of loved ones were separated by distance and a cruel war, which, in a perverse way, linked thousands of Australians through a common bond of struggle.

These people all had voices and in *Voices of War* we hear the voice of Darcy the soldier, his sister (Bessie) the nurse, his mother, his brother (Billy) fighting in France and his mates. This national war became a very personal war.

Geoffrey weaves stories, verse and songs about WWI to engage students in a greater understanding of the war. This includes the elements of mateship, valour, suffering, bravery and humour.

Target years: *Upper Primary & Secondary –History/ Drama*

Outcome: *An understanding of WWI and identity, courage mateship and compassion.*

Ironically Geoffrey acted in 2 movies, both *Anzacs* and the more recent *Gallipoli* –giving him a small insight into the life of a soldier. (*He died 3 times*)

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