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REFLECTION: Remembering those who Serve in War **by Rebecka Sharpe Shelberg, illustrated by Robin Cowcher**

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$27.99

It's hard not to be drawn to *Reflections: Remembering Those Who Serve in War*. The khaki colouring, fine-line etching, and splashes of poppy-red watercolours bleeding into the cover immediately conjure up images of Anzac and beg you to open the pages.

Sparse but carefully chosen emotive text accompanies you on a Dawn Parade where you not only remember those who have been affected by war, but are also reminded of the varied and valuable roles of military personnel who act as peacekeepers, protectors, and providers of aid.

As a mass of feet march along the first few pages there are subtle changes in the illustration, which gradually transform everyday footwear to soldiers boots and horse hooves; scattered leaves are replaced with earth ground to mud by the constant movement. A closer look reveals small children clinging to adults. As the pages progress, detailed etchings begin to reveal ethereal hints of geographical locations, ethnic groups and recognisable historical and present day conflicts.

The author's and illustrator's notes at the rear of the book reveal the depth of research that has gone into portraying this familiar event, transforming it into an invaluable teaching resource.

Short, specific details for the South African Boer War (1899-1902), World War I (1914-1918), World War II (1939-1945), Korean War (1950-1953), Vietnam War (1954-1975), East Timor (1999-2002), Iraq: The first Gulf War (1990-1991), Afghanistan (2001-Present), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1995-2003), and Iraq: The Second Gulf War (2003-2009) tell us a little about the cause, the numbers of Australians and New Zealanders involved, and lives lost.

Individual illustrations are ideally suited for use as isolated discussions. The story-telling is mesmerising, and the illustrations constantly reveal new details hidden in the images.

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Reviewed by writer and teacher, Angie Belcher

