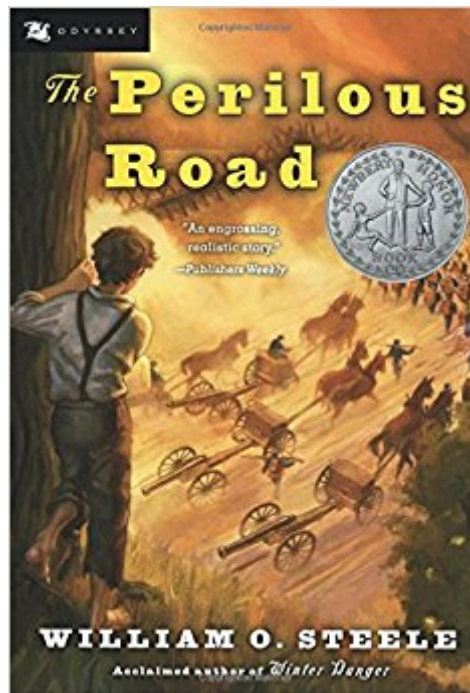




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The Perilous Road (Odyssey Classics (Odyssey Classics))



Synopsis

The heartbreaking, bitter view of the Civil War as experienced by Chris Brabson, whose brother is fighting for the "wrong" side.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 750 (What's this?)

Series: Odyssey Classics (Odyssey Classics)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1-Simul edition (September 1, 2004)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #119,766 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars](#) #164 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#) #1226 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-8—This recording of William O. Steele's Newbery Honor Award-winning book (Harcourt, 1958) about the Civil War chronicles the tale of Chris Brabson, a young man who lives in Tennessee's mountain country and sides with the Confederates. He hates Yankees with all his heart because they've stolen from him and his family, leaving them with little food for the winter. They stand for everything that's gone wrong with his world. Then, to Chris's dismay and embarrassment, his older brother, Jethro joins up with the Union as a soldier. When Chris spots a Yankee wagon train and reports it, he expects the consequences will be immediate and shattering. The news that Jethro has become a wagon driver is almost more than Chris can bear, and he goes frantically searching among the Yankees for his brother. Along the way, he realizes that the Yankee soldiers are very similar to him and not the evil, hateful people he imagined. The tale is told in a gentle Southern accent by Ramon de Ocampo. With the same accent coloring almost all the

characters, his narration doesn't differentiate much between speakers; instead, it emphasizes the brother against brother aspect of the Civil War, and the fact that many people from the mid-South had split loyalties. However, each character is easily discerned from the context of the story. This recording should appeal to fans of historical fiction and adventure stories. --Charli Osborne, Oxford Public Library, MI Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"This is one of Mr. Steele's best books, an engrossing, realistic story of a Tennessee mountain boy who, during the Civil War, comes to realize that war is terrible no matter where one's sympathies lie."--Publishers Weekly

Chris Brabson is an eleven year old boy who hates the "Yanks" that are moving into his area around his mountain Tennessee home. He is from a loving family that deal kindly to the Northern soldiers who take their food and even their old mule. He idolizes a shiftless older man who influences Chris to try to become a strong Confederate supporter and leads him into dangerous situations. When Chris learns his older brother is joining the Northern Army, he is devastated and feels he is betrayed by his brother and family. As conflict between the Brabson's neighbors escalate, Chris, encouraged by his sneaky friend is encouraged to stand up to the Yankee soldiers to prove he is a true Confederate. When Chris sees a huge wagon team of supplies heading towards Chattanooga, he tells his friend who pretends to be a spy, to alert the Confederate Army hoping every man will be killed. Then he discovers his brother, Jethro has been assigned as a driver in a wagon team to haul supplies. Chris rushes to the Yankee campground in search of his brother. But instead of an hated enemy, he realizes the soldiers and drivers are mostly nice people. Before the next day is over, Chris is caught on the battlefield and discovers the true horror of war. This event is a coming of age story the will change his live forever.

What a great story. As a lover of American historical novels and history, (and I am Australian) I found it very interesting. Many people still today resent the Civil War and what it did to the people and the country. Books like this help to express the feelings of the people involved and the hardships they faced for both sides.

perfect

I used this as part of our Civil War unit. We enjoyed to references to local places in Tennessee.

My 5th graders are reading this novel as a social studies project, and are really enjoying the book. It can be a challenging read at times due to it being written in the actual dialect spoken by Southerners of the times. The HARD-BACK book in excellent condition was received quicker than I expected. I thought it would be a paper back, so I was pleasantly surprised!

Many thanks for getting this book to me in excellent condition. It will be a gift for a little one on my Christmas list in 2014.

"Chris Brabson hates the Yankees, plain and simple." This is from the Newberry Honor Book, *The Perilous Road*, by William O. Steele. But Chris Brabson has the right to be angry at the Yankees--or some of them. After all, they've taken all of the food his family has saved for the winter. All the food that they worked so hard to grow and hunt! Yet somehow, Chris's brother Jethro joins up with them! "How could he betray the South," his browned-haired brother wonders." Chris will do anything for the Confederate cause. He lets loose the mules that pull the Yankee wagons, tries to shoot some Yankees passing through the woods, and most importantly, he tells a potential spy where the Yankee wagons are headed. Now the Confederates know exactly where to attack, and the best way to attack. Then Chris discovers that Jethro might be driving one of those wagons!! Has Chris just caused his own brother's death? He must find Jethro and warn him. This sends Chris flying to the Yankee camp. No Jethro. Worn out, he sits next to some Yankees. They feed him and reassure him. Their kindness makes Chris think, "Maybe the Yankees aren't so wicked and hateful. These two Yankees have been kind to me." In the midst of these thoughts, the Confederates attack-- and Chris hasn't yet found his brother!! I felt sorrow and anger when Chris and the potential spy, Silas, talked about hating the Yankees. I think it will make other readers upset too. Though Chris hates the Yankees, there's one that he has an extremely strong bond with: Jethro. Why else would Chris go looking for him to warn and protect him? This story teaches us that we shouldn't hate a whole group of people without knowing the individuals. It also reminds us that despite different beliefs, always remain loyal to your family. Everyone should follow the lessons in this thrilling book. If you are a person who likes to read about the Civil War, you would enjoy this book. Many books about the Civil War are told from only one side. You can read about what the people on both sides of this war might have been thinking. You would also love this story if you are fond of action adventures. From hanging off of a cliff to escape the Yankees, to nearly getting caught by them when setting mules

free, Chris's story is action packed!

The Perilous Road is as excellent as any history channel show. This book made me feel cheerful, gloomy, and sometimes enraged all in one. The Perilous Road is about a boy who hates the Yanks. He was like any other boy; he enjoyed swimming, fishing, and hunting. Until one day his life changed forever... After a shootout with the Yanks, Chris was forced to run and hide from the "Blue Bellies" who were chasing him. But while hanging onto a rock wall, his hands began to slip. After he was sure the Yanks were gone, he yelled for help. His brother came to help him up and give him the news "I'm joinin' the Yanks." How could Chris' own brother betray the South and betray him? The next couple of days one of Chris' friends calls him a "Blue Belly!" At that Chris snaps. The next night he goes to the mule pens and sets every last stolen mule free. There he meets Silas sneaking around and his suspicions for his friend rise. The next day Chris asks Silas, "Be you a spy?" At that Silas becomes very worried. While hunting one day, Chris looked through a bush and saw hundreds of wagons belonging to the Yanks. He ran over to Silas to tell him the news. After Silas had ran to tell someone about the wagons. Chris remembered his brother was a wagoneer. Will Chris be able to warn his brother in time? This book is for readers ten and up for the use of old English. It is a good example of historical fiction. The moral of this story is never judge a man until you walk three moons in his shoes. The Perilous Road was fun and exiting I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

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