

*5 of 5 Stars*

[Heartwarming Memories in the Early Forties](#)

By [Cynthia Maki](#) on May 14, 2013

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I really enjoyed this book centered during World War II and taking place at the Sun-Up Ranch. The Author brings to life both the fun and simplicity of life in the State of Washington and the hard life they led as they struggled to establish their ranch. There are no "bad" guys in this story but different personalities and ages trying to cope in difficult times.

Through this families struggles we learn how the American people sacrificed and worked together to do their part in the war. Food stamps, shortages, and filling the shoes of those who were far away are all made clear. We also understand the differences between life of their time and today. The lack of electricity and its effect on everyday life was clearly expressed.

As the family goes through the events at the ranch, from Jane's tragic lip accident, their preparations for the Christmas holiday and the tension of Scott's dad missing in action you are drawn into their world and begin to cheer their successes. The authors charming illustrations add a lot to the story and help the younger reader visualize what they are reading.

This book would be good historical fiction for middle-schoolers and would give them a feel for life in another time.