

Exploring Ethical Issues
in John Marsden's
Tomorrow When the War Began:
a student work ebook



Lessons and exercises based
on exploring ethical issues in
Tomorrow When the War Began by
John Marsden and other war texts

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War Began:*
a student work ebook

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1. Orientating yourself with the novel

From the title you have probably already guessed that the novel is about war. Before you begin reading about 'war', discuss the following questions with a partner or in groups. Jot down ideas if you feel it is necessary.

a. What is war?

b. Why do countries go to war?

c. What systems are set up in countries to negotiate with other countries to prevent war?

d. Have you ever had first hand experience of war? What about members of your family, like grandparents? What was that like for the people involved?

e. In some countries, once men reach a certain age, it is compulsory to go into military service. Do you think this is necessary? Why or why not?

f. What is your moral (values relating to right and wrong) viewpoint about war?

- g. There is a growing push for women to be allowed to serve as soldiers on the front line. What are the implications for fellow soldiers and the society we live in if women are allowed to fight on the front line?

Looking at the novel

Before you start reading, familiarise yourself by looking at the front cover. Think about the title of the novel and the graphic. If you wish, also read the blurb on the back of the cover.

What does the cover tell you about the story? Make notes on the following lines.

Read the first chapter of *Tomorrow When the War Began*.

Complete the exercise below.

Exercise 1: Looking at the opening chapter

1. Complete the following table by referring to the information given in the opening chapter of *Tomorrow When the War Began*.

| | |
|--|--|
| When/where is the novel set? | |
| Who are the characters you meet in the opening chapter? | |
| What do you learn about the background to the events in Chapter One? | |
| Why do they happen? | |

