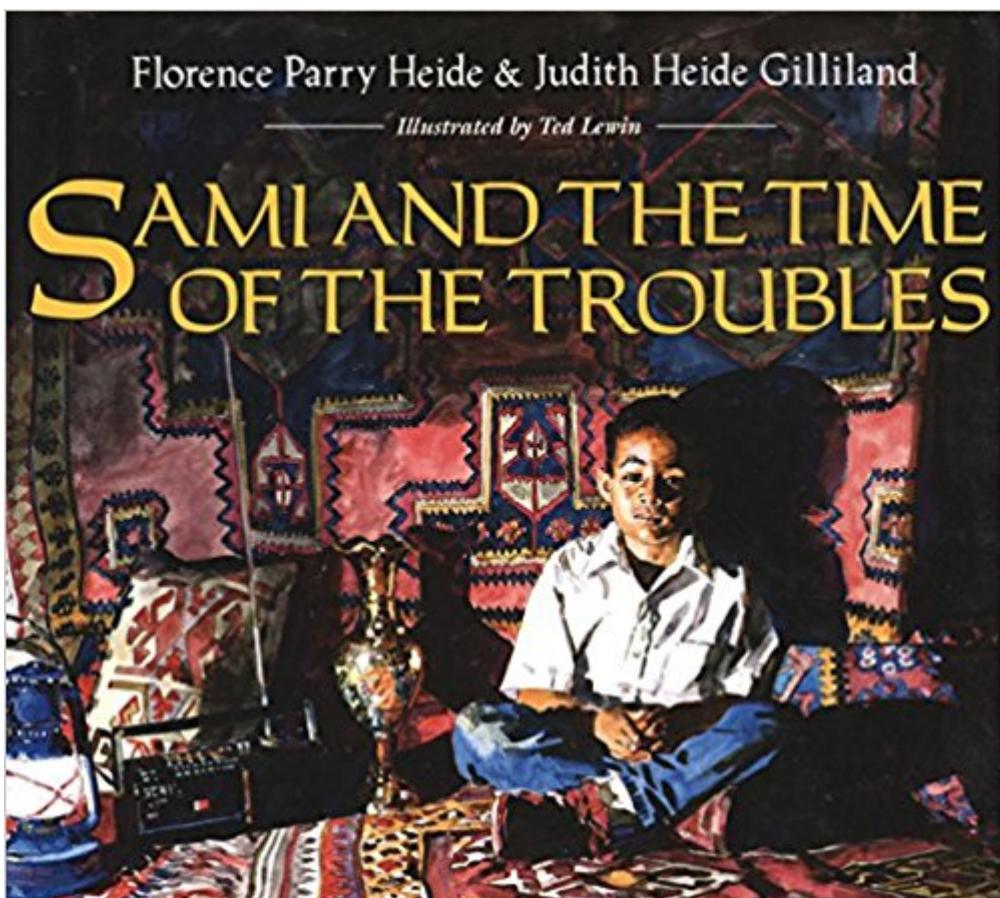


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# Sami And The Time Of The Troubles



## Synopsis

A ten-year-old Lebanese boy balances his life in a war-torn city.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 600L (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 18, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395720850

ISBN-13: 978-0395720851

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #344,473 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #252 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #7863 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

In this "poignant and appealing" story, a boy longs for peace in his war-torn Beirut; PW noted that Lewin's art "exudes a brave optimism." Ages 5-9. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 3 Up-- Ten-year-old Sami lives in Beirut, Lebanon. Because of gunfire and bombing in the streets, he and his family spend much of their time in the basement of an uncle's house. There they listen to the radio or stare at the carpets Sami's mother insisted on bringing along as reminders of a normal life. When there is a lull in the fighting, the boy enjoys a day at the beach or meets with a friend to make a fort and play at war. ``When we are older, we will have real guns," says Amir. Sami disagrees. ``The fighting will be over then. It cannot last forever." At the story's end, Sami and his family are back underground listening as the ``noises of the night" begin. As in The Day of Ahmed's Secret (Lothrop, 1990), three marvelously talented collaborators offer a powerful, poignant book. Heide and Gilliland's lyrically written, haunting story makes clear that war threatens not only physical existence but affects the human spirit as well. Lewin's watercolor illustrations capture

contemporary Beirut with stunning clarity and drama. A bridal party walks through the rubble of a bombed-out street, old men drink coffee and smoke water-pipes, a blue sky startles with its brilliance. And Sami--surrounded by the carpets whose muted colors suggest a glimmering of hope--waits in the black cave of a basement. Unforgettable. --Ellen D. Warwick, Robbins Library, Arlington, MACopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I give this book four stars instead of five for two reasons: 1. the book needs to clearly state the setting and situation early on in order to keep the interest of children who will otherwise be confused and thus bored. A little more clarity may make it less artsy for adults but it is essential for children. 2. Many of the illustrations are too similar. They are very beautiful but again they are a bit adult-focused. A shot of the toys the boy plays with while trapped in the cellars or the food they eat, rather than repeated scenes of sitting on rugs would be better for kids. That said, this type of book is far too rare. The portrayal of culture in the book is very nice. I am a former conflict correspondent and I've been in villages under air attack and seen children huddling in cellars just like this. The atmosphere and facts are all very realistic and done in a way that children can probably relate to, if given a little explanation in advance, which is the bit missing in the book. So, go with this book but be ready to do a little explaining. Another excellent book with less great illustrations but better explanation is *The Library of Basra*. Used together they may be able to help children understand the issues of war.

Bought this as part of the Build Your Library kindergarten curriculum. Wonderful book for any home library!

Interesting story.

had to read this for class. It was a decent book but can't say I would add it to my collection if I didn't need to buy it

Ted Lewin has again lavishly illustrated a work by the same authors as *The Day of Ahmed's Secret*. Ten-year-old Sami lives with his family in Beirut. This poetic and beautiful book tells of the family's strength and of Sami's determined optimism in the face of war's devastation. This is a young children's picture storybook, so there are no politics here, no war's history, no taking of sides. . . except the side of children who want not to be in shelter, who want families whole, who want to play

outside.Teachers/Librarians - for Kindergarten - 6th grade. This special book speaks to the hearts of so many of our children in our classrooms, who come from war-torn communities everywhere. . . and one does not have to be an immigrant refugee to have had these experiences.

This book will help children put themselves into Sami's war ravaged world. They will feel the angst of civil war and worry about Sami's safety in a book that makes readers feel as if they could reach out and touch the rubble in the streets of Lebanon. The book portrays the intermittent bombing and roller coaster of emotions faced by those who lived through the civil war. A wonderful mix of history and fiction which must be read.

My boyfriend lived in Lebanon during the time frame of this book. This book was close to the life he knew then. I bought the book for my sister's Arab American child. It is often difficult to find children's books with an Arabic theme. This is a wonderful one.

A great source for teaching multicultural literature. I think it's a good read-aloud because it facilitates discussion.

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