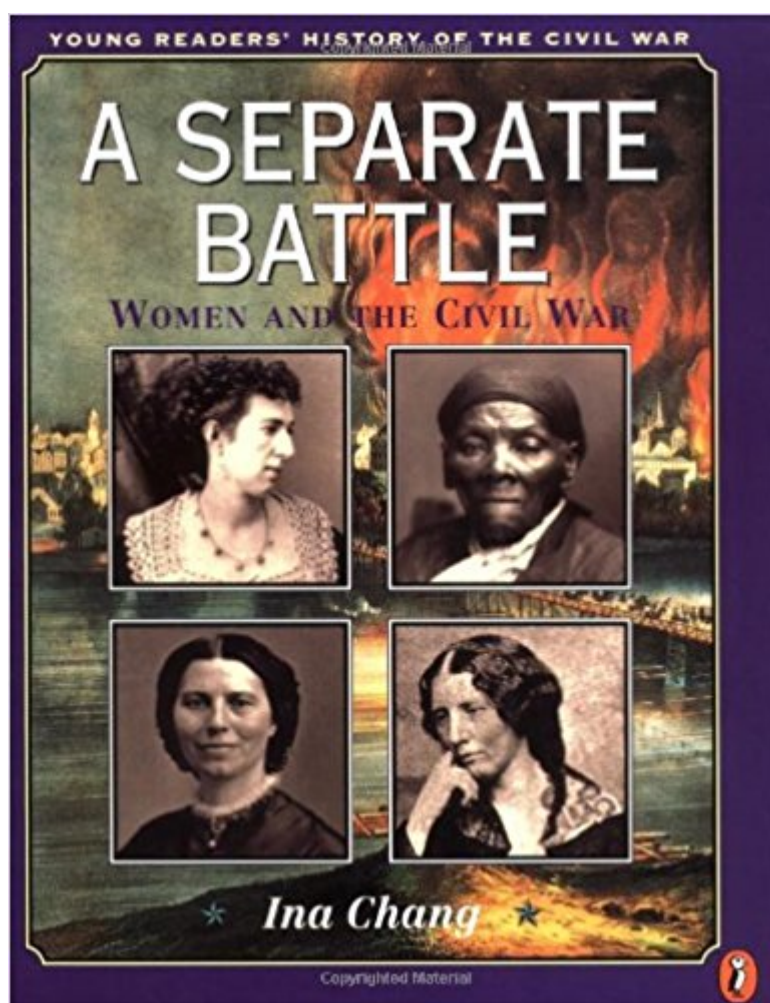


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# A Separate Battle: Women And The Civil War (Young Readers' History Of The Civil War)



## Synopsis

From slave women to abolitionists, fund raisers, spies, and even soldiers, courageous women such as Angelina Grimke, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Clara Barton played fascinating and vital roles in the Civil War. Drawing on diaries and letters and illustrated with vintage photographs, *A Separate Battle* reveals how women influenced the course of the Civil War and transformed their own lives. “I could work as much and eat as much as a man when I could get it and bear the lash as well. . . . And aren’t I a woman?” Sojourner Truth An NCSS-CBS “Notable Children’s Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies.” An ALA Notable Book

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8-- Chang introduces many familiar names, such as Harriet Tubman, Belle Boyd, and Clara Barton, as well as women who rolled bandages at home, nursed injured soldiers near the front, or fought disguised as men. Through her use of primary-source materials such as letters and diaries, the author personalizes this history without whitewashing it. She also captures the prejudice faced by those women with nerve enough to assist in the war effort in a more public way, especially their poor treatment by men. In one of the most vivid passages, she describes Sojourner Truth facing down an audience of hostile men and bringing them to their feet cheering. The black-and-white archival photographs and reproductions are excellent, some showing how women continued to be portrayed as “delicate and demure” even though their work required determination and energy.

This is valuable addition to American history and women's studies collections. --Elizabeth M. Reardon, McCallie School, Chattanooga, TN Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In the "Young Readers' History of the Civil War" series, a survey of women's many roles, vividly illuminated with dozens of personal stories of both the famous and the obscure. Beginning with abolitionist Angelina Grimké, who was born a wealthy South Carolinian but moved to Philadelphia because she abhorred slavery, Chang introduces several other prewar "Voices for Freedom," both black and white, from North and South. Succeeding chapters discuss "Supplying the Armies" (not just with sewing skills but with organizational genius); doctors and nurses who had to endure male doctors' prejudices in addition to the appalling hospital conditions; clever and courageous spies and the many women, some never revealed, who posed as men to serve as soldiers; trials and sorrows on the home front, including taking on men's roles and coping with shortages (there were bread riots all over the South); and, finally, the aftermath, when Angelina Grimké reappears to discover that she has half-black nephews, put them through college and graduate school, and declare that "these young men...far exceed in talents any of my other Grimké nephews." Archival photos and engravings, maps, broadsides, cartoons, and boxed treatment of special topics are all skillfully chosen to support the fascinating, well-organized text. This book is Chang's debut: a splendid achievement. Bibliography; index. (Nonfiction. 10-14) -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

With the cover photo of the armed woman who looked as if she had fought in the Civil War, I thought that this book was about women who had served in the War Between the States. However, most of the book was about the woman abolitionists before the war and traditional ways women helped the war effort on both sides. One chapter covered woman spies and the few known examples of woman soldiers. This book for young readers did spend time explaining just how hard the war was for the women left behind and how they struggled to continue their lives during wartime. Some went to work in factories and others tilled the soil for food, as well as the many jobs women already did in the home. Some of the photos, woodcuts and artist renderings were remarkable. Pay particular attention to the pair of photos of Frances Clalin, showing her in soldier's uniform and usual woman's dress. Most of the book was of the usually-mentioned women of the era: Harriett Tubman, Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix. I think this would have been a much stronger book if more of the

common women had been mentioned and discussed. One of the best parts of this short book was the description of life for Southern women as Sherman marched through the South. It must have been harrowing to be fired upon (by Northern soldiers) and to lose what little the women and children had to eat. The book lightly brushed across the escaping ex-slaves and how the Northern soldiers didn't know what to do with them. As a first book on the subject, this book is adequate. However, the research was of the typical subjects, with the exception of white Angelina Grimke. Her early life opened the book and the story of her ex-slave nephews drew the circle closed in a nice fashion.

This is a rather good read. It is a fine addition to the Civil War literature for high schoolers. At that age it is refreshing to have something to read other than battle stories, if you are of the female persuasion. It might be only a 4.5 \* book if just the text is considered. But if the period photos, engravings, and paintings are thrown into the mix...the result is 5 \*'s. I highly recommend this book.

I bought this book while working on a Women's History project for college and also to help with Civil War living history presentations. Because this book is for young readers I have not used it for much more than an overview and to point out photographs (which are wonderful) during my presentations. However, I recommend this book for any young reader interested in history or teacher wishing to include more women into the curriculum. It gives a great overview of women's roles during the Civil War, how their lives changes, what roles they took on, and what struggles they endured! Now that is GIRL POWER!

The text looks at the famous and not so famous women who participated in the Civil War. It is written in a narrative format, more like a fictional text than a non-fiction. The book is filled with original pictures and short informational biographies of the most important women featured. The illustrations are very large and would be nice to use with an opaque projector when speaking about some of the women or events covered in the book. I also think it would be an excellent book for independent reading due to the format.

this book has tons of info on women and nurses in the Civil WAR

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