

After reading through the various reviews on the book “Battle Cry of Freedom”, I have to say that

it very interesting that there can be such differing views on the same book. Some people seemed to

love it and give a good amount of praise for the author as well as the material. Others had a complete

distaste for what was written as well as for McPherson himself, condemning him for being overly

biased in favor of the Northern side of view. This should not amaze me though as in the past I have

seen quite often completely differing views on works of literature. Anyone can read a novel and

form an opinion, but to see such a difference in opinion is strange.

I, myself, am very eager to begin reading this book and seeing what information I can gleam from the

text. I have to say, I was a bit nervous after reading some reviews and started to wonder if this

would be a waste of my time. But, as I have noticed in the past, I have differed quite a good deal

on other peoples opinions concerning novels as well as cinema. I feel that I have to come to my

own conclusions by reading and analyzing the material before I can take another persons opinion as

factual.

I wholeheartedly want to a piece of literature, especially one geared for a college class, to be factual in

historical accuracy and would like to think that the authors prejudices would not cloud over the

information I should be gathering. But, since this is required reading and because I love to read new

material, I will go into this book with an open mind and get what I can out of it.

Of course, in reading reviews, most people should take into account whether the opinions themselves

come from scholars ,professionals in the field, experts on the Civil War or from just your average

person. But even in this, a person should trust their own judgment in reading. This is where

things like fact checking and further readings on the subject come into play. I can read this novel

but along side of it check to make sure the material is correct and that the biases of the author are

not influencing something that may not be completely factual.

With this all in mind, I will go into the readings of this book with an open mind and pursue gaining

a more historical knowledge of what I feel was was one of the most interesting wars of our time. I will also take into account the thoughts and conclusions my peers in the class have. In discussing and

debating the subject matter we can all come to truths that maybe we ourselves had not thought of.