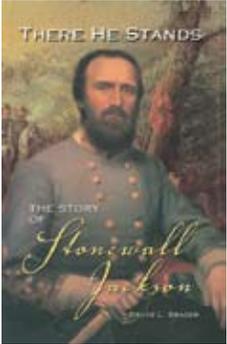


# Civil War Generals



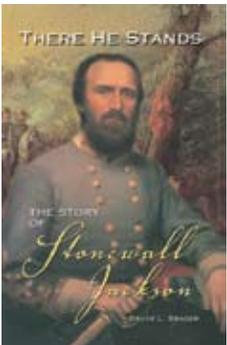
**School Library Journal**  
**November 2005**

BRAGER, Bruce L. *There He Stands: The Story of Stonewall Jackson*. ISBN 1-931798-44-3. LC 2004014839.

RICE, Earle, Jr. *Robert E. Lee: First Soldier of the Confederacy*. ISBN 1-931798-47-8. LC 2004021105.

----. *Ulysses S. Grant: Defender of the Union*. ISBN 1-931798-48-6. LC 2004022345. ea vol: 176p. (Civil War Leaders Series). maps. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2005. PLB \$24.95.

Gr 8-10 –All three books are well written and well illustrated with photographs, reproductions, and maps. Brager introduces readers to the complex man behind the legend. Jackson was a poor farm boy who struggled academically at West Point, yet went on to teach at the Virginia Military Institute (although he wasn't known as a very good instructor). He was revered by the Southern populace and often abhorred by his subordinates. Rice begins with Lee's youth, followed by his early career and marriage. He discusses the general's military prowess in great depth, not only describing the battles in which he fought, but also his personal reactions to them. Grant is similar in scope and content. A great deal of detail is given on the man's early career, including his participation in the Mexican-American War, and there is full coverage of his successful tenure as "general in chief of the Union armies." His battles with alcohol and his often-unsuccessful life out of the military are also detailed. These accessible titles are full of compelling and interesting insights into these important figures. –Elizabeth M. Reardon, McCallie School, Chattanooga, TN



**VOYA**

**June 2005**

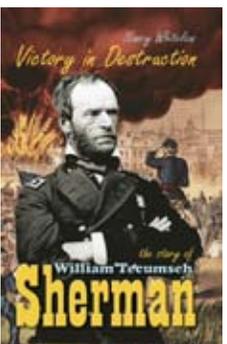
**3 Q \* 2P \* J \* S**

Brager, Bruce. *There He Stands: The Story of Stonewall Jackson*. 1-931798-44-3.

Whitelaw, Nancy. *Victory in Destruction: The Story of William Tecumseh Sherman*. 1-931798-31-1.

Dedicated to the point of obsession, loyal, self-sacrificing, career soldiers whose plans and attitudes sometimes clashed with those of fellow officers, William Tecumseh Sherman and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson were deeply respected by the men they led but they were rarely seen by their families. These detailed biographies focus mainly on their military careers but also provide some background into their personal lives. At times the reading is tedious as one battle after another is recounted during the main portions of the books. The writing is straightforward and gets the job done without

any flowery language. These works might be used to gain insight into military strategy during the Civil War as well as fulfilling their primary role as biographies. Each chapter is approximately twenty pages in length with small print on glossy white pages. Reproductions of sections from actual letters written by some of the principles; color paintings; and some full page, black-and-white and sepia photographs from the era are included along with battle maps. Although the font used for captioning these items is tiny, it is readable. This reviewer is personally grateful that there are no annoying factoid boxes or "Did You Know?" sections to distract readers. Others in this series include biographies of Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. –Pam Carlson



**School Library Journal**

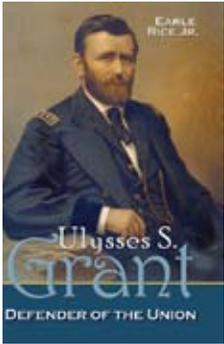
**May 2005**

WHITELAW, Nancy. *Victory in Destruction: The Story of William Tecumseh Sherman*. 176p. maps. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2005. PLB \$24.95.

ISBN 1-931798-31-1. LC 2004023837.

Gr 5-9–Whitelaw traces the general's young years, graduation from West Point, and a number of jobs he held that never brought him the success or financial security that he desired. Much like Ulysses Grant, his success came in the field he least pursued—the military. Sherman proved his worth fighting in the western theater of the Civil War, capturing key locations, including Atlanta. However, stress brought on a nervous breakdown and spawned newspaper stories about his mental stability. This text is chock-full of material about the times in which Sherman lived, which occasionally overwhelms

the biographical information. Average-quality, color reproductions and black-and-white historical photographs, maps, and excerpts from Sherman's memoirs appear throughout. It should be noted that Lincoln's "House Divided Speech" was given in Springfield, IL, not in New York.—Patricia Ann Owens, Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel, IL



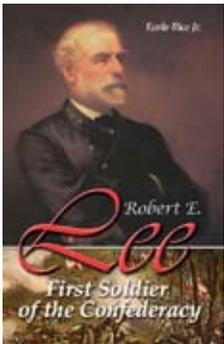
### Booklist

March 15, 2005

Rice, Earle. ***Ulysses S. Grant: Defender of the Union***. 2005. 176p. illus. index. Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$24.95 (1-931798-48-6).

Gr. 8-11. In this well-written biography, Rice presents Ulysses S. Grant, touching upon his Ohio boyhood, education at West Point, service in the Mexican War, military leadership during the Civil War, and two terms as president. Rice portrays Grant in an evenhanded manner, making good use of source materials for apt quotations. Particularly intriguing are the connections drawn between Grant's experiences as a young man and his later preferences, abilities, and decisions. Like other books in the Civil War Leaders series, this has an accessible look, with reproductions of period paintings, prints, photos, maps, and documents adding color and visual interest. Back matter includes a time line, source notes, a bibliography, and a list of Internet sites. The relatively high

reading level will slow some middle-school students, but more able readers will find this a fine introduction to Grant's life. Other recent volumes in the series include biographies of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. —Carolyn Phelan



### The Horn Book Guide

2005

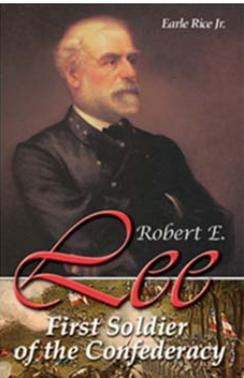
Brager, Bruce L. ***There He Stands: The Story of Stonewall Jackson*** 176 pp. Morgan LE ISBN 1-931798-44-3 \$26.95

Rice, Earle, Jr. ***Robert E. Lee: First Soldier of the Confederacy*** 176 pp. Morgan LE ISBN 1-931798-47-8 \$26.95

Rice, Earle, Jr. ***Ulysses S. Grant: Defender of the Union*** 176 pp. Morgan LE ISBN 1-931798-48-6 \$26.95

Whitelaw, Nancy ***Victory in Destruction: The Story of William Tecumseh Sherman*** 176 pp. Morgan LE ISBN 1-931798-31-1 \$26.95

(3) YA Civil War Leaders series. These four biographies recount the lives and accomplishments of two Confederate and two Union generals. Each gives an account of the general's childhood, his early years, and his importance to the Civil War, including the significant battles fought. Archival photographs, drawings, and maps illuminate the well-written texts. Timeline, websites. Bib., ind. LBC



### YOUNG ADULT REVIEWERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

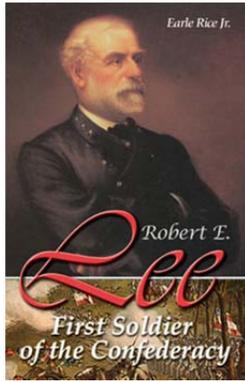
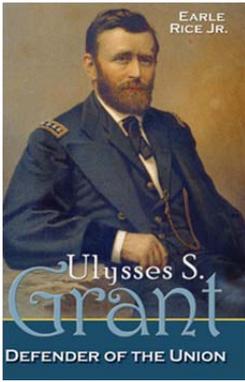
Recommended Titles for Young Adults

G/A Rice, Earle. ***Robert E. Lee: First Soldier of the Confederacy***.

Morgan Reynolds, 2005. 176p. 1-931798-47-8 24.95.

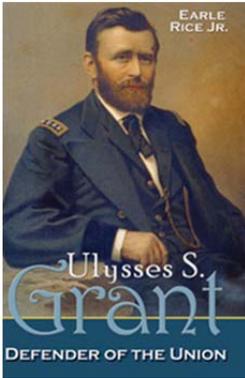
Emphasizes Lee's military career rather than his home life, marriage, and post Civil War career. Briefly looks at his childhood and how his parents' difficulties shaped his character. At West Point he prided himself on not getting any demerits for improper behavior while still maintaining the respect and friendship of his teachers and peers. While he married to improve his social status rather than for love he was devoted to his family despite long separations due to his military assignments as an engineer. His battlefield career began late in his career where he distinguished himself as a tacticianduring the war with Mexico. His final noteworthy assignment as a Union officer was the capture of John Brown at Harper's Ferry. Through letters, documents, and public statements the honorable status that Lee was held in by friends and enemies is revealed. Includes a bibliography with adult titles, a sparse timeline, general Web sites, lavishly illustrated, but lacks maps of battles discussed.

revealed. Includes a bibliography with adult titles, a sparse timeline, general Web sites, lavishly illustrated, but lacks maps of battles discussed.



### Children's Bookwatch May 2005

Earle Rice Jr.'s *Ulysses S. Grant, Defender Of The Union* (1931798486) and *Robert E Lee: First Soldier Of The Confederacy* (1931-798478) each provide in-depth focus on two major leaders of the South. From childhoods to political and social influences, each book does an excellent job of going beyond adult achievements to probe the nature and interests of each leader.



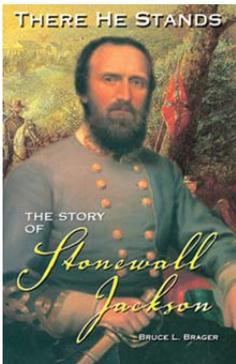
### YOUNG ADULT REVIEWERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Recommended Titles for Young Adults

G/A Rice, Earle. *Ulysses S. Grant : Defender of the Union.*

Morgan Reynolds, 2005. 176p. 1-931789-48-6. 24.95.

In straightforward writing, we learn of Grant's life: his humble birth, education and eventual appointment to West Point, and his somewhat unsuccessful early military career. A chapter covers his role in the Mexican War and one on his eventual resignation of his commission due to alcoholism and his struggle to provide for his family. There are three chapters (about 1/3 of the text) on the Civil War and one chapter covers his presidency and end of life. The chapters on war (Mexican and Civil) suffer from lack of maps; the primary source maps are interesting to look at but difficult to use to plot the action. I found one typographical error (Corinth not Cornith) but overall a good choice for a biography for YA collections. Readable from Middle school to High school, the information is both factual and editorial. Karen Phillips, Brentwood School



### Children's Bookwatch March 2005

Bruce L. Brager's *There He Stands: The Story Of Stonewall Jackson* (1931798-443) tells of an orphan who became a determined student, a military officer, and eventually the leader in a war which forced him to choose between two strong beliefs. An engrossing, inviting biography evolves.