

*Fever Year: The Killer Flu of 1918* by Don Brown

While looking through Good Reads I saw a review of this juvenile graphic novel, and felt it would be interesting. Brown does a fine job of outlining the way the “Spanish Flu” spread across the United States and globally, as soldiers moved through Europe in World War I.

Estimating that nearly one-third of the world’s population was infected by the flu, Brown wrote and illustrated his graphic novel in three acts. The fever began in military camps in the US, and moved with the infected soldiers and nurses across the country and into combat situations in Europe. As ill soldiers and medical personnel returned home, communities fell ill, home remedies were used with little success, and quarantine became commonplace. Brown uses historical data and quotes to provide the feeling the pandemic created as the available medical information and research could not contain or eliminate the disease.

Similarities to the current COVID-19 pandemic cannot be ignored while reading this short book. Discussions about quarantine, wearing masks and “home remedies” might feel new in our current situation, but as *Fever Year* shares, these ideas were a part of dealing with the Spanish Flu as well and knowing this has happened before might be a comfort to some reading this book.