



Key Vocabulary: Boy Soldier by Andy McNabb &

Vocabulary Word	Definition	Context
Ambush	A surprise attack by people lying in wait in a concealed position.	"The SAS had been ambushed, and now it was a fight for survival."
Civilian	A person not in the armed services or the police force.	"He couldn't take his mind off the civilians who'd died in the attack."
Covert	Not openly acknowledged or displayed.	"The mission was a covert operation, designed to stay under the radar."
Debrief	A meeting held in order to question someone about a completed mission or undertaking.	"He knew he'd have to undergo a debrief as soon as he got back to base."
Detonate	To cause something to explode.	"The terrorists planned to detonate the bomb during rush hour."
Disperse	To scatter in various directions.	"The crowd began to disperse when they heard the sound of gunfire."
Drone	An unmanned aircraft or ship that can be remotely controlled.	"The drone flew silently over the compound, relaying images back to the control room."
Espionage	The practice of spying or using spies.	"He was charged with espionage, accused of passing information to a foreign power."
Hostage	A person held captive in order to force a concession from a government or other organization.	"The terrorists had taken hostages and were demanding the release of their imprisoned comrades."
IED	Improvised Explosive Device, a homemade bomb.	"The soldiers had to be on the lookout for IEDs, which were a common weapon used by the insurgents."
Infiltrate	To secretly enter an organization or enemy territory.	"Their mission was to infiltrate the terrorist cell and gather intelligence."
Infiltrator	A person who secretly enters an organization or enemy territory.	"The infiltrator posed as a journalist in order to gain access to the compound."
Insurgent	A person fighting against a government or occupying power.	"The insurgents had been gaining ground, and the government forces were struggling to hold them back."
Interrogate	To question someone in detail in order to obtain information.	"The soldiers were trained to interrogate prisoners of war."
Kinetic	Relating to or produced by motion.	"The kinetic energy from the explosion caused the ground to shake."
Sabotage	Deliberate destruction of property or disruption of operations.	"The saboteurs had disabled the power grid, plunging the city into darkness."
Surveillance	Close observation of a person or area.	"The police had placed the area under surveillance in order to catch the suspect."
Trauma	A deeply distressing or disturbing experience.	"He couldn't shake the trauma of his first battle."



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Undercover	Acting or done in secret, especially for purposes of deception.	"The undercover agent had to maintain his cover at all times, even when it meant compromising his values."
WMD	Weapon of Mass Destruction, a weapon that can cause widespread death and destruction.	"The international community was concerned that the country might be developing WMDs, and they were considering taking action."

Acronyms and military terms

Term/Acronym	Definition
SAS	Special Air Service, a special forces unit of the British Army.
RMP	Royal Military Police, the corps of the British Army responsible for policing service personnel, their families, and civilians employed by the Army.
PTI	Physical Training Instructor, a member of the armed forces responsible for physical training and fitness of service personnel.
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal, the process of safely disposing of unexploded ordnance such as bombs and grenades.
APC	Armored Personnel Carrier, a vehicle designed to transport infantry to the battlefield.
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade, a type of shoulder-fired anti-tank weapon.
Mortar	A tube-shaped artillery weapon used to launch shells at a high angle.
Forward Operating Base (FOB)	A military position located beyond the main defensive perimeter, used to support tactical operations.
Tactical	Relating to or constituting actions carefully planned to gain a specific military end.

Historical and political context of the book

"Boy Soldier" is a work of fiction, but it is set against a backdrop of real-world conflicts and geopolitical tensions. Here's an overview of the historical and political context for the book:

The story takes place in the early 2000s, a time when the War on Terror was in full swing. In particular, the book is set in Iraq, shortly after the 2003 invasion led by the United States and its coalition partners. The invasion toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein, but it also plunged the country into a period of instability and violence.



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The book focuses on the experiences of a young British soldier, Danny Watts, who is sent to Iraq as part of the coalition forces. The novel explores the challenges that soldiers face in a complex and dangerous environment, as well as the moral dilemmas that arise when fighting an insurgency.

The political context of the book is shaped by the broader geopolitical tensions of the time. The 9/11 attacks in the United States had sparked a global campaign against terrorism, and the invasion of Iraq was seen by many as a crucial part of that effort. However, the decision to go to war was controversial, and it sparked protests and opposition both in the United States and around the world.

In the years that followed the invasion, Iraq was beset by sectarian violence, insurgency, and political instability. The conflict dragged on for years, and it had far-reaching consequences for the region and the world. The story of "Boy Soldier" is a fictional account of the experiences of one soldier in the midst of that conflict, but it is grounded in the real-world historical and political context of the time.