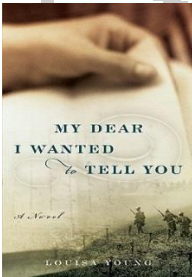




**Fr. Michael Goetz Library Learning Commons
Teacher's Book Review**



***My Dear I Wanted To Tell You*, Louisa Young
Reviewed by Ms. Cosgrove, May 9th, 2012.**

I really enjoy historical fiction because I always feel like I am getting two things for the price of one – a great plot and a rich setting against which characters can be developed. This book reminded me of a Canadian classic called *The Wars*, by Timothy Findley. It is set during World War I and follows the military career of a working class soldier, Riley Purefoy, who is promoted through the ranks until a horrific injury sidelines him and probably saves his life. His career intersects with an upper class English gentleman named Peter Lock who is his commanding officer in the first part of the novel. The book also explores the relationships they have with the women back home in London and the impact of war on those left behind. I had the very good fortune of exchanging a few words with Timothy Findley just before I taught *The Wars* to an OAC class, several years back. I asked him what he thought I should emphasize and he paused and looked very sad and simply answered, “What they did to those boys.. what they did to those boys.” Those words echoed through my mind as I read this book and I ended the book hoping and praying the inhumanity of war would be something extinguished in the future of our world.