

# [Graves of the fireflies](https://assignbuster.com/graves-of-the-fireflies-movie-review-samples/)

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. . 24 July 2007 Graves of Fireflies The Isao Takahata's the Grave of the Fireflies, a Studio Ghibli production, is one   
of the greatest animated picture ever made. The Grave of the Fireflies is described to be   
  
one of very powerful, moving, touching movie, an allegory of human failings and a quiet   
  
but unflinching look at two children caught in the peripheral effects of a war. The movie   
  
is considered to be the most painful and affecting movie ever likely to produce. Although   
  
an animated, having simple actions and scenes yet full of the great beauty and innocence   
  
that would not be possible otherwise, creating all the more contrast with the harsh and   
  
painful realities experienced by the characters.   
  
The story is based on a bestselling novel by Akiyuki Nosaka, a survivor of the   
  
firebombing of Kobe in World War II. Nosaka battled starvation and lost his younger   
  
sister to malnutrition. Haunted for years by the experience, driven by the guilt of his   
  
sister's death, he wrote the book in hopes of silencing the ghosts surrounding him. The   
  
story of picture revolves round a boy and his sister, named Seita and Setsuko, ages 14 and   
  
4, orphaned when their mother is killed in the firebombing of Tokyo. Both children were   
  
left to survive on their own in what remains of civilian life in Japan. Before American   
  
troops begin to occupy Japan, the children flee their disheveled home and deceased   
  
parents to make their bid for a new life. They travel to the home of a distant aunt, who   
  
turns out to be distant in more ways than one. Increasingly frustrated, the aunt coldly   
  
discards the children. They took shelter in an abandoned bomb shelter in the countryside.   
  
As the situation grows progressively worse in the war, things deteriorate proportionally   
  
on the home front. Both children Seita and Setsuko do their best to survive in the Japanese   
  
countryside, battling hunger, prejudice, and pride in their own personal battle. The   
  
surrounding adults, the farmers and the doctors and the officers, are either unable or   
  
unwilling to notice the orphaned two. The world itself seems to be collapsing around   
  
them.   
  
At first glance the movie could be seen as a metaphor for the entire country of   
  
Japan during the war: fighting a losing battle, yet too stubbornly proud to admit defeat   
  
or accept help. The movie is also in some ways uplifting in its portrayals of simple   
  
beauty in the darkest of situations and the strength of the human spirit, but although it   
  
never resorts to heavy-handed tragedy or melodrama, this tale of two children standing   
  
up in the face of adversity and slowly falling victim to a host of human frailties-   
  
suspicion, prejudice, and pride--is unsparing and deeply tragic from start to finish.   
  
Above all, though, the enemy in this story is war--you never see a battle or an army,   
  
but you can see the tragic effects of war on even the idyllic countryside far removed   
  
from the front. Grave of the Fireflies puts a human face on the civilian population of   
  
Japan during the war--something not many movies have done, and none have done as   
  
well. Moreover, it manages to do so in a painful and realistic, yet still understated,   
  
manner. In fact it is almost too painful to watch, but equally difficult to take your eyes   
  
off. All this, and it is animated--anyone who thinks animation can't tell a realistic story   
  
with any impact has never seen this movie, and should be required to do so (Marshall,   
  
para. 1-7).   
Works Cited   
  
Marshall, Makosuke. Grave of the Fireflies: Review. 19 August, 2003.   
  
24 July, 2007.   
  
http://animeworld. com/reviews/graveofthefireflies. html