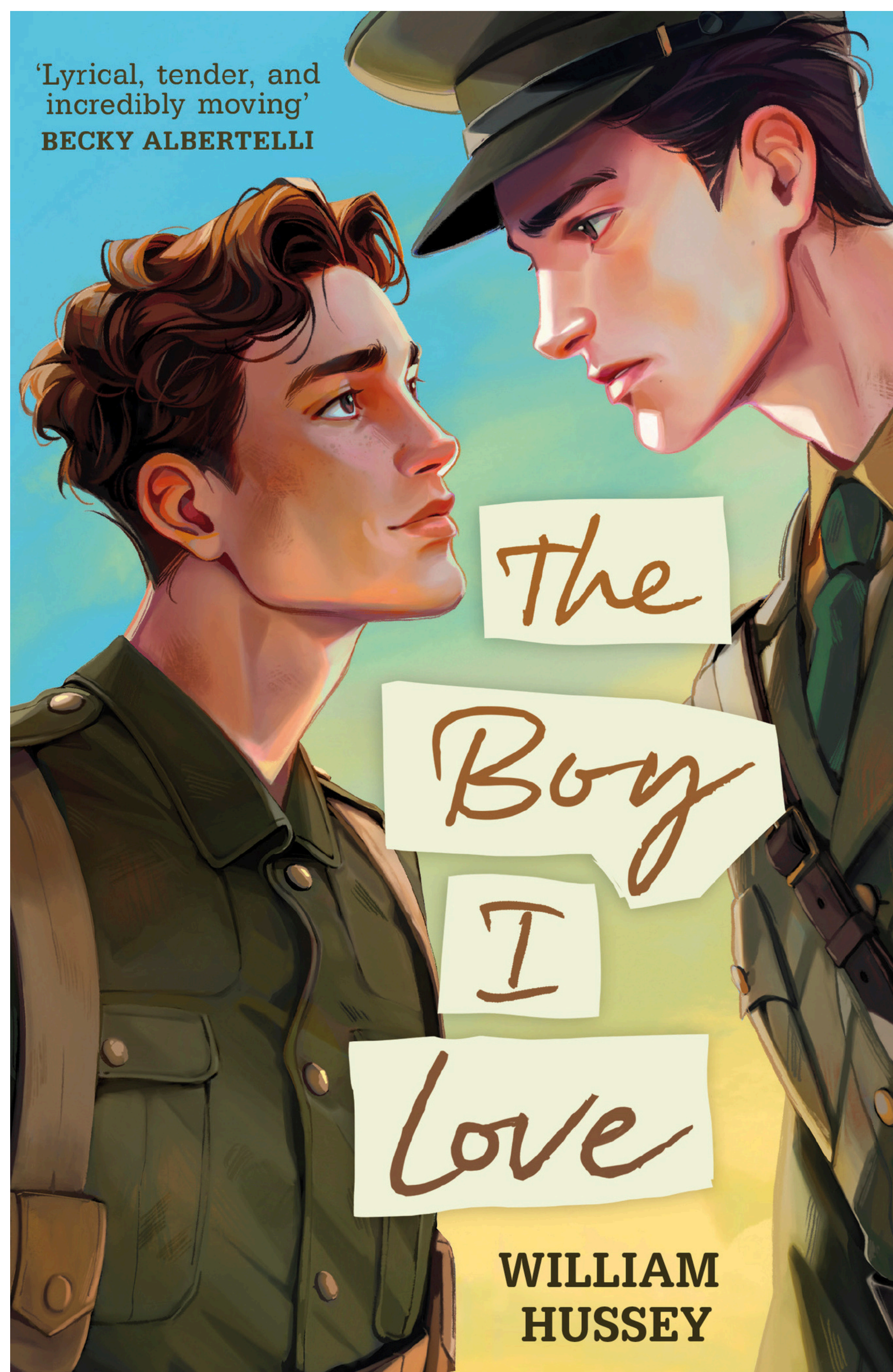


# The Carnegies



## The Carnegie Longlist 2026 Shadowing Resources

# The Boy I Love

## Carnegie Medal for Writing

**Author: William Hussey**

**Age range: 14+**

### Description:

The scale and tragedy of World War One is juxtaposed with an intimate relationship between Stephen and Danny in the trenches. The bleakness of the war is realised tremendously well and there's a real sense of tension as the novel develops. A looming sense of foreboding colours this character-led novel which encourages reflections on history.

Themes:

- History (WWI)
- LGBTQ+
- Romance
- Empathy
- Identity
- Discrimination
- Social class
- Wellbeing

### Shadowing Ideas:

1. The title of *The Boy I Love* is taken from a popular music hall song, "The Boy I Love is Up in the Gallery", written in 1885. Listen to a recording on YouTube (there are plenty, including videos of singers in music hall costume) and then discuss why music halls, vaudeville and other similar forms of entertainment might have been so popular in the early years of the 20th century (re-read Chapter 32 for some insight).
2. Towards the end of *The Boy I Love*, Stephen describes the horror of the Battle of the Somme and compares it to a Franz Marc painting: "Arcs and starburst, bright and bold" (p. 251). Look at some of Franz Marc's paintings and discuss Stephen's comparison. Franz Marc died in 1916, a few months before the Battle of the Somme; how do you think he would have depicted the conflict if he had been alive to paint it? Create your own impression, in either sketch, painting or collage form.
3. The First World War produced some powerful poetry and writing, including the letters and poems of Wilfred Owen, the work of Welsh poets Hedd Wyn and Edward Thomas, the writing of Siegfried Sassoon (who survived the war and became a pacifist) and the novel *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque, published in 1928. Choose a wartime poem that affects you and discuss it with your shadowing group. Create a short group bibliography if you have time.