

The War that Saved My Life

By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Annotation

Born with a club foot, nine-year-old Ada is locked in a room and can only surreptitiously gaze out the window at her younger brother playing with his friends in the London streets. Fears about bombs dropping, children are sent to the countryside to keep them safe. Ada's mother does not want her to leave, but she overcomes the threat of beatings and teaches herself to walk far enough to join her brother. Together they join lonely, recluse Mrs. Smith, who is the only one to volunteer to take care of them. Ada cannot always read her benefactor's intentions, but she learns to trust, just as she learns to ride a horse named Butter. From victor to victorious, especially after the battle of Dunkirk, this is a story of one girl's courage.

Book Talk

Imagine that bombs are dropping on the city and your parents have decided to send you out to the country for safety. How would you handle the unknown? What would you take with you?

Book Trailers

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stbW0MjYeEI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=to0dScB3VBA>

Author on the Internet

- Website: <http://www.kimberlybrubakerbradley.com/>
- Facebook: kimberlybrubakerbradley

Items to use in a library display

- Black and white photo of WWII in England (kids)
- old radio
- crutches
- horse blanket

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- http://teentweenbooks.blogspot.com/2016/10/the-war-that-saved-my-life-discussion_5.html

First Line of the Book

- "Ada! Get back from that window!" Mam's voice, shouting."

Non-Fiction Companion Title

- *Children in the Holocaust and World War II : their secret diaries* by Laurel Holiday

What to Read Next

- *Chasing Secrets* by Gennifer Chodenko

- *Stella by Starlight* by Sharon Draper
- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord

Other Books by this Author:

- *The War I Finally Won*
- *The Lacemaker and the Princess*
- *Jefferson's Sons*
- *The President's Daughter*
- *For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy*
- *Halfway to the Sky*

Additional Resources

- Music: British patriotic music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ST353mDWL3Q>
- Poetry: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/83/a2011483.shtml>;
lesson plan: <http://www.readwritethink.org/resources/resource-print.html?id=247>
- Art/craft activity: create a concrete poem using <http://angelaspoems.com/uncategorized/evacuee-2/> for inspiration
- Interview with the author: <http://www.slj.com/2016/01/books-media/sharing-the-newbery-love-book-trailer-spotlight/#>
- Book Study/Curriculum Guide/Lesson ideas: www.penguin.com/wp-content/.../03/WarThatSavedMyLife_Guide_15_4p_LR.pdf
- Lesson ideas:
 - <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/children-evacuation-world-war-ii-6182898>;
 - http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/about/lzone_school_youngpeople.shtml;
 - Have students choose an evacuation story and present a summary to class: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/categories/c1162/index.shtml>