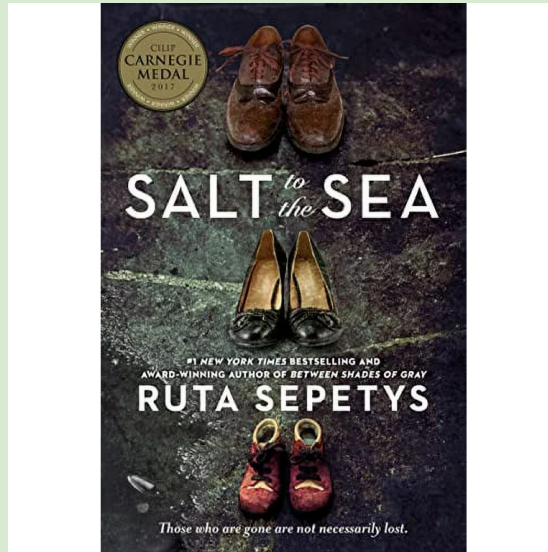


Book of the Month Blog

Hello everyone, my name is Annie! I hope you enjoy my book blog! It is about everything that I have read this year in ALA! Please be kind and remember that I worked hard on this!

October

My Post



Salt to the Sea Blog

By: Annie Woodman

This contains spoilers

This contains violence

This month, I read *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys. This is a historical fiction book that takes place in East Prussia during World War 2. This book follows the journeys of 4 refugees, Joana, Florian, Emilia, and Alfred, who are all trying to escape to freedom by taking the Wilhelm Gustoff, a ship that was designed to bring refugees to safety. Joana, a Lithuanian nurse, is one of the characters who wanted to escape East Prussia by boarding this ship and wanted to help as many people as she could. But, while she was on the ship, a Russian submarine torpedoed into the ship, which caused the ship to immediately start sinking into the depths of the Baltic Sea. So, she escaped onto a lifeboat and hoped that help would come as she sat there, freezing. Then, after many cold hours, a boat came and rescued the remaining

refugees, including Joana. *Salt to the Sea* illustrates the theme that resilience often leads to freedom.

I would rate this book an 8.5/10 because it is a historical fiction novel and it is fast-paced. One thing I like about this book is that it does a great job of describing the harsh conditions faced by the characters. For example, when Joana is traveling through a forest to get to the Wilhelm Gustoff, the author does a great job of describing how cold the forest felt. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes fast-paced books and historical fiction.

Math of the book: Romance + War + Fear + Tragedy = *Salt to the Sea*

One-word pitch: Survival

Question pitch: Is it worth risking your life to protect others?

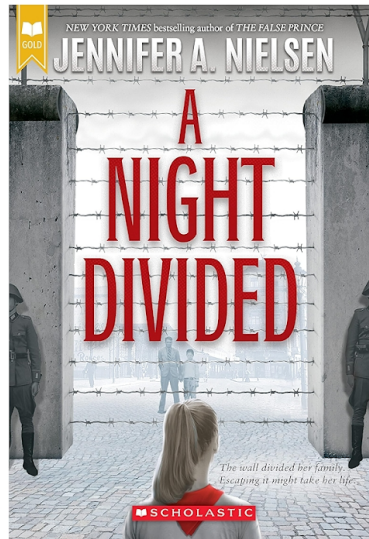
Adelyn D

Owen
Spencer

I thought that your question pitch was interesting because in a real-life struggle to survive and save people, that is something that would definitely come to mind. I wanted to learn more about how the characters were connected to each other. If you like this book, you might be interested in *Heroes* by Alan Gratz, as it also focuses on WWII and on real events, but is still historical fiction. I would enjoy reading this book because I like reading about what characters could be and how they would react. Also, I like characters who are resilient and want to help others through their struggle, even though they are going through their own struggle. Thank you so much for this amazing blog!

I rate this book an 8.5/10

September



A Night Divided Blog

This blog contains World War 2 violence

This blog contains minor spoilers

This month, I read *A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen. This is a historical fiction book which takes place in Germany, right after World War 2. Gerta, a 12-year-old girl living in East Germany, wanted to escape by building tunnels with her brother. The reason for building these tunnels was to reunite with her other brother and father, who got trapped on the West side of Germany the night the Berlin Wall, a wall that separated East and West Germany, went up. But, when they were digging, a German soldier, Officer Muller, discovered their tunnel. So, they bribed him into letting him and his family escape with them, in return for him not telling the other officers. A theme for this book is, often persevering leads to success.

I would rate this book a 9/10 because it is very engaging and fast-paced. I also like how there are a lot of plot twists. For example, right when everything was going according to plan, Officer Muller found Gerta's tunnel, and her future was questionable. I really feel engaged with this book; I would recommend this to anyone who loves historical fiction and likes fast-paced books. People who like *Number the Stars* would really enjoy this book due to its historical fiction component.

- Math of the Book Pitch: Freedom + Family + War = *A Night Divided*

	• Question Pitch: Is risking your life worth it when there might be a higher reward? • Rhyming Pitch: Risking it all to get past the wall.
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Ellie E.	I think you wrote your blog really well so I could understand what your book was mainly about. I learned about the timeline in which this book took place, how the Berlin Wall affected Germany, and about Gerta's motive for persevering and digging a tunnel. One thing I thought was interesting was how Gerta and her brother had the determination to break rules and reunite with their family. This is because if the bribing didn't work, they would probably be in serious trouble. Additionally, I also related to Gerta because I know what it's like to want to be with your family after they become further away from you, like when my siblings moved to college. After reading your blog, I think this is a book I would want to read in the future because of the example of challenges they faced that you provided, what the characters were like, and I have read books about World War 2 and the Berlin Wall before.
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Maggie S	Your blog was a good representation of the book and it made me intrigued to read that book. Also I related to it because my family is German and was in a big war. I liked learning about the war because You made a good representation of the book and it sounds like a good book to read and it made me want to read the book. Your quote brought the whole story together and if anything gave me a bigger understanding of the whole book its self because my perspective before was just oh its a book about war but you explained it so well i could write a blog about it myself and i realized its not just a book about war its a book about Love,family, and freedom. You did an amazing job with the blog and you might see me reading this book soon.
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I would rate this a 9/10

November

My Post	
Partner 1	
Partner 2	

Other things I read this month:

Blank Table

My Post	
Partner 1	
Partner 2	
Other things I read this month:	