

Please write reviews using the following format. A sample review is provided.

Title

Author

Brief summary [1-2 paragraphs]

Did you like the book? Why or Why not? [1-2 paragraphs]

Reader recommendation.

Reviewer: [your name]

*Salt to the Sea*

Ruta Sepetys

*Salt to the Sea* is set in Germany during WWII. It follows four teenagers trying escape before the advancing Soviets reach them. Chapters alternate between voices, allowing the reader to thoroughly understand what brought each character to this place as well as their relationships to each other and their circumstances.

This book was incredibly well written with characters you love right away and characters who evolve literally throughout the entire book. I have read a lot of WWII stories about prisoners' experiences in camps, but this was so completely different. Three teens, a young boy and an old man, all definitively not members of Hitler's perfect race, are trying to sneak out of country and rejoin their respective families before the Russians land. We only ever hear from the three teens and a young member of Hitler Youth, but as the story rotates from viewpoint to viewpoint - from secret to secret - readers are riveted; both longing and dreading the next step in their journey. I had never heard of the *Wilhelm Gustloff* and found this narrative of both the characters' journey and the sinking of the ship terrifying, heartwarming and heartbreaking.

I would recommend *Salt to the Sea* to older teens, or mature young teens, with an interest in WWII stories in particular or historical fiction in general.

Reviewer: Becky Farwick