

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

Author

Stelson, Caren

Illustrator

Illustrated by Selina Alko

Reviewer

Carruth, Leah

Pages

Unpaged

Price

\$19.99

ISBN

978-1-5415-9868-3

Publisher & Date

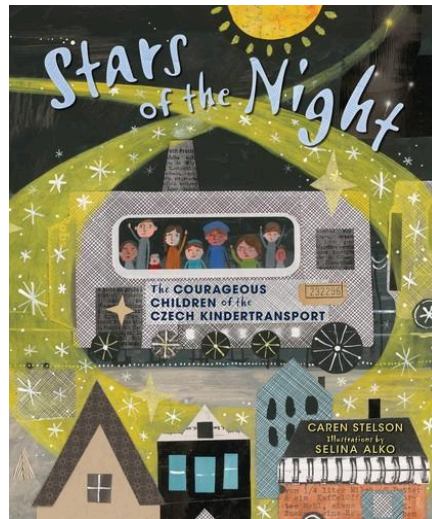
Carolrhoda Books, 2023

Classification

Nonfiction (940.53)

Grade level

2-6

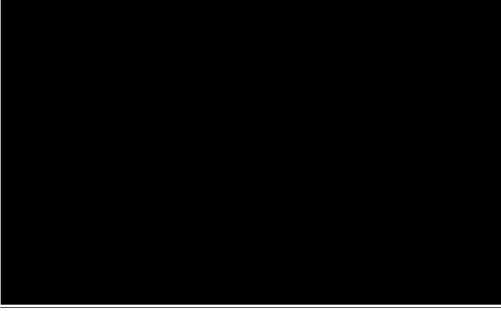


Book Review: STARS OF THE NIGHT: THE COURAGEOUS CHILDREN OF THE CZECH KINDERTRANSPORT

Difficult times in history are often stories that need to be told and crafted for children to understand. This book is a great example of such a story. Young Jewish children were taken from Prague to Britain just before WWII began to save them from the unknown terrors that lay ahead. The narrator tells the story of the 669 young children who were transported by train and boat to new families. She uses the words and narratives gathered from these children to tell the story from their perspective, often including direct quotations from parents, hence the title of the book. The story follows the children from the time they began to have struggles in Prague to when they finally met the man who was responsible for their survival, Nicholas Winton. They learned of who he was 50 years after they were grown with their own children and grandchildren. The reunion was astonishing.

The illustrations are unique, created by paint, colored pencil, and collage. The style works for this type of book because it is a difficult topic to read about, and the illustrations lend themselves to an engaging yet appropriate style. The train cars that transported the young children are depicted with different styles of paper collage. The children inside are rendered with paint and colored pencils, not including too much detail, but drawing the reader in. The book has information at the back for the time line of events, who





some of the children were, the Stars in another Night Memorial, and how Nicholas Winton's story lives on. The author and illustrator both provide their own connection to the story. A list of suggestions for further reading concludes.

