



Lifeboat 12

By Susan Hood

Junior Tome It List Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions:

1. This book is based on a true story and real events of World War II. If there was a war and it was dangerous to remain in your home would you choose to remain with your family at home or travel to a different location where it was safer?
2. Lifeboat 12 is a story of courage, hope, and perseverance in the face of almost impossible odds. How does staying hopeful affect your odds of surviving a dangerous situation?
3. There are many books written about World War II, with a variety of themes, subject matters and points of view. What have you read? What topics most interest you?
4. Different people in the book are deemed a hero. What makes a hero? Can anyone be a hero?

Post-reading questions:

1. Ken is only allowed to pack a small suitcase and a duffel bag and has to leave behind some of his most prized possessions for more practical things like warm clothes. If you had to pack in the same small dimensions, what would you take? What would you leave behind?
2. Play the same game as the boys, would you rather be bombed at home or torpedoed at sea? Why?
3. Lifeboat 12 is told in verse, how does that contribute to the overall story?
4. "Books are Weapons in the War of Ideas." What does this mean? How does Lifeboat 12 exemplify this idea? How did stories become Ken's lifesavers? Ken feels like his stepmother wants to get rid of him. What details support this idea? Do you think there was a change of heart at the end or did true feelings just become more evident?
5. *SPOILER ALERT* Why do you think Ken and several of the boys that survived went on to join the armed forces?
6. The Children's Overseas Reception Board was the British government organization responsible for moving children out of the country to safer locations, such as Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand. This ended after the tragedy of SS City of Benares. Were they right to stop the program? Should they have continued? Should they have evacuated children at all?

Post-reading Activities

1. Research more on the Children's Overseas Reception Board. Create an infographic to show what you learn. Follow the guidelines at tomesociety.org/competitions.html to enter it into the Student Book Choice Historical Fiction Infographic competition.
2. There are still conflicts in throughout the world today, what impact are they having on children, families and other civilians. Choose one and create a current issues portfolio about what you learn. Follow the guidelines to enter it into the Current Issues Portfolio competition.

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