



2010

The Klipfish Code

Tessa McMillan

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Casanova, Mary. *The Klipfish Code*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. ISBN 9780618883936. \$16.00. 217 p.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Historical fiction;

Subject: Family life--Norway--Fiction; World War, 1939-1945--Underground movements--Norway--Fiction; Norway--History--German occupation, 1940-1945--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Marit thinks Norway is safe from the Nazis—until the invasion occurs. Her parents send Marit and her brother, Lars, to live with their fisherman grandfather and Aunt Ingeborg on a small Norwegian island. Even though the island is somewhat secluded, Nazis constantly patrol, taking away such necessities as blankets, food, and radios from the villagers. In Marit's eyes, her grandfather is too willing to help the Nazis even after Ingeborg is sent away for refusing to teach Nazi propaganda in her classroom. Marit wants to help fight the Nazis in some way. She is given a chance to help when she discovers a wounded resistance soldier in the woods. The soldier has a secret mission for the resistance, but he is too badly wounded to complete it. He asks Marit to do the mission for him. She accepts and takes Lars along for the trip. She completes the mission and returns home to find that her family is under suspicion by the Nazis. Her grandfather surprises her and Lars by taking them to his boat to smuggle them, Ingeborg, and other refugees to Scotland, staying there until the war is over. Once Norway is safe again, they return back to their island and meet up with Lars and Marit's parents.

Casanova's story and characters are brilliantly written and beautifully complex. Many of the experiences described in the book are based on true events. This book would be an excellent resource for lessons on World War II.

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