



2020

Words on Fire

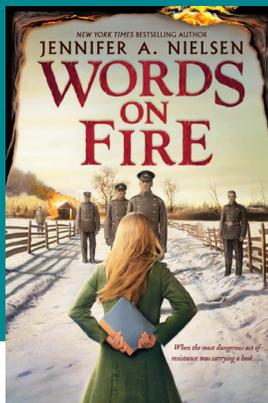
Karen Abbott

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Abbott, Karen (2020) "Words on Fire," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 41: Iss. 7, Article 30.
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Book Review

Words on Fire

Author

Jennifer A. Nielsen

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

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Rating

Dependable

Level

Intermediate, Young Adult

.....

Pages

820

Year

2019

ISBN

9781338275476

Publisher

Scholastic Press

Early one morning in Lithuania, Russian soldiers invade Audra's home, capturing her parents. Urged on by her mother, Audra runs to the forest with a book her mother wants her to deliver to a woman in a neighboring town. While Audra resents books because her parents risked everything smuggling them, she learns quickly that a book is more than words on a page. Finding that books are a country's heritage, culture, and freedom, she soon joins the crusade to bring books to the Lithuanian people. Proving to be a very creative and courageous girl, she teams up with a group of like-minded people all while hoping to be reunited with her parents.

Showing the determination of the Lithuanian people to conserve their culture during Russian occupation, this book sheds light on a segment of European history. However, some elements of the story felt difficult to connect to. Given her parent's devotion to books, one would think that they would have taught her to read, even in Russian. But the task of developing her mind and education was left for her to fulfill later in the story. The adventures while smuggling give the reader a taste of the danger, but they were not entirely compelling and engaging. While it is a solid historical read, this title does not always reach the richness and depth of other titles like *Salt to the Sea*, *The Red Ribbon*, or *Beneath a Scarlett Sky*.

*Contains mild violence.