Listen to the Moon

Sydnee Burr

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Book Review

Title: Listen to the Moon  
Author: Michael Morpurgo  
Reviewer: Sydnee Burr  
Publisher: Feiwel and Friends  
Publication Year: 2015  
ISBN: 9781250042040  
Number of Pages: 332  
Interest Level: Young Adult  
Rating: Excellent

Listen to the Moon explores the use of fictional primary sources in an unforgettable tale about being lost and then found. 12 year old Merry is sailing to London with her mother from Manhattan on the Lusitania, a ship destined to be sunk by German submarines in the height of World War I. Miraculously surviving, Merry clings onto a floating piano from the ship while clutching onto the hope of being saved. The sun, isolation and starvation cause Merry to lose her memory, her sense of self and any inkling of where she came from or where she’s going. When she is saved, it is up to the sweet family who fosters her and their patient and clever son to revive Merry’s memories, hope and purpose.

Michael Morpurgo excellently utilizes fictional primary sources and creates a bizarrely believable account. Although silent, Merry is incredibly relate-able, and Alfie, the boy in Merry’s host family is especially understandable to all readers. Because the two main characters are girl and boy respectively, Morpurgo invites all ages and genders to dive into their silent yet mesmerizing life together. Listen to the Moon depicts a world where it is possible to look beyond appearances, to push past prejudices and to inspire growth and development where others merely find fault.