

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"Great History for All Ages @ Your Columbus Public Library!"

When I first started college, I was a history major. I have always been fascinated with historical topics like the Vikings and World War II. I am especially interested in the Holocaust (and to this day viewing Auschwitz, in person, is on my bucket list).

I had known that during the late 1930's, thousands of Jews fled their homes for fear of being captured by the Nazis. Many did so by hiding in secret rooms in homes and businesses. Some trekked deep within surrounding forests to escape the danger. It was not until I read the juvenile novel "The Enemy Above: A Novel of World War II" by Michael P. Spradlin that I learned that some Ukrainians even took shelter below ground within caves and caverns carved out by underground springs.

In Spradlin's novel readers meet Anton, a twelve year old boy, who is forced to leave his family's farm in order to escape the encroaching grip of Hitler's army. Anton is led by his beloved Bubbe (grandmother) through wheat fields during the night to Verbata, a rendezvous point where Anton's Uncle Dmitri is waiting with a wagon and team of horses.

The horse-drawn caravan makes its way to a meadow adorned with small trees and boulders. Anton and the others abandon the wagon and set off towards two especially large boulders. Two stones had collapsed onto each other, forming a narrow crevice. After carefully maneuvering his way through the tiny space, Anton finds himself in a cave surrounded by 28 other tired individuals. The displaced men, women, and children work together setting up an underground community. Anton soon meets a boy his age, named Daniel, and the two become fast friends.

To see if Anton and others escape the reach of the Nazis, check out "The Enemy Above: A Novel of World War II" by Michael Spradlin from the Columbus Public Library. If you have questions about this text or are looking for other quality recommendations for the young historians in your life, contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

Today, from 10AM-Noon, CPL will be offering our "Super Sensational Saturday" program for March. We will be hosting our second annual "Canvas and Color-In" event. This activity allows area youth the opportunity to connect with their inner-Picassos by painting an 11" by 14" blank canvas. To encourage students through the creative process, talented volunteers like area watercolor artist, Lois Smith, will be on site to assist students as they paint. While their canvases dry, families can enjoy tasty snacks and continue honing their creative skills by coloring. Markers, crayons, and a number of large coloring pages to choose from will be provided. This event is free and open to all families!

Don't forget that the Columbus Public Library's Children's Department offers a monthly calendar that showcases the many events that take place in the library's Children's Room. To have this informative agenda sent to your inbox, email me at bhruska@columbusne.us.