

*The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Set during the London Blitz and focused on the children who were moved to the countryside for safety, this Newbery Honor Book is such a satisfying and well-written work of historical fiction for grades 4-8. Actually, I have recommended it to many adults, and each has later told me how much they enjoyed it. It's also satisfying that after reading about characters who you really get involved with, there is a sequel, which is also a satisfying read!

Ada, the 10-year-old main character, is abused by her mother because she has a clubfoot and her mother feels shamed. She is not allowed to go to school or leave their tiny apartment, but is used as a servant as well as expected to care for her six-year-old brother. When her mother refuses to allow Ada to be evacuated with Jamie and the other neighborhood children, Ada decides to leave without her mother knowing. Her fateful decision will change life for her and her brother forever.

The sequel is *The War I Finally Won*. I highly recommend both, especially for anyone interested in WWII from an often overlooked angle.

Debra Blunier