

LIBRARY NEWS: Children can read about fact and fiction from the past

History comes alive for young readers

Dance with a Tzar, fight for the Loyalists, experience the Russian Revolution. These are all scenarios that your child can experience by visiting the library.

Most people associate historical fiction with adult books, but there are many children's titles, as well.

These stories are set in a period containing historical people and/or events.

It is a wonderful way to present history to children in a different manner.

For example, it may be difficult for a youngster to explore the many issues and events surrounding the Second World War. There are a number of books that will make this period come alive.

A well loved trilogy set during the war is written by Kit Pearson. Starting with *The Sky is Falling*, readers can follow the many adventures of Norah and Gavin, war guests from England, as they spend the duration of the war in Toronto.

A different perspective is given by Marie McSwigan in *Snow Treasure*. It takes place in Norway where children try to save their country's gold supply from the Nazis. It illustrates the

many restrictions an occupied country endures and the indomitable human spirit.

But what happened to people after the war?

The award winning book *After the War*, by Carol Matas explores the plight of Jewish survivors as they try to establish themselves. The book deals with difficult issues but reinforces the need for people to tell their own personal stories.

This is just a brief example of the many historical novels available to children. Additional titles are listed in a hand-out available at the library for children who like this genre.

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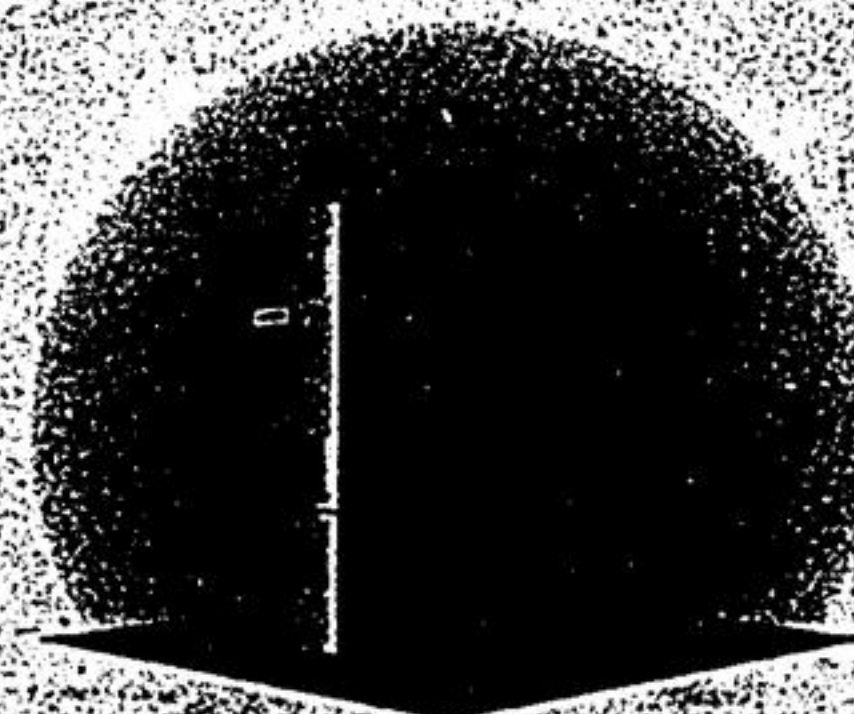
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