



The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark

Carmen Agra Deedy , Henri Sorensen (Illustrator)

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When Nazi soldiers occupied his country, King Christian X of Denmark committed himself to keeping all Danes safe from harm. The bravery of the Danes and their king during that dangerous time has inspired many legends. The most enduring is the legend of the yellow star, which symbolizes the loyalty and fearless spirit of the king and his people. The result is a powerful and dignified story of heroic justice, a story for all people and all times.

The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark Details

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Author : Carmen Agra Deedy , Henri Sorensen (Illustrator)

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Virginia says

A simple book with a profound message-- *The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark* is-- as the author admits in her notes at the end of the book-- a legend; its truth cannot be substantiated with any photographs or written documentation. However, there are many facts the author does share that indicate it could be true, or that something like it could be true. This is an inspirational tale of what a country's ruler did to try to protect his people-- ALL of his people--during the time when Hitler was collecting Jews for execution during World War II.

The book would be a great tie-in with *Number the Stars*. It is recommended for use in critical analysis, literary elements and devices (foreshadowing, irony, climax).

I really loved all the factual information shared in the author's notes, as well as the simple but powerful way in which the story is presented.

Jessica says

A beautiful, true story about King Christian of Denmark, who refused to bow down to the Nazis. This is a good starting point to talk about WWII and the Holocaust with children, the story is told simply and gently, and with rich pictures.

Barbara says

An inspiring story about a King and a people who refused to cower in the face of a cruel enemy. An important lesson for us all in these uncertain times.

Niamh Delahunty says

Though the Yellow Star may appear nothing more than a picture book, it isn't. The Yellow Star is the touching story of the loved King Christian of Denmark. Before the war (World War II), Denmark was made up of all Danes, no race was stereotyped against. But, with the coming of the war and Hitler's anti-semitism, this changes. All Jews are required to wear a yellow star on their clothing, to symbolize that they are different from others. Instead of Danes and Danes, Denmark was made up of Danes and Jews. King Christian, more powerful in character than in world influence will not stand for the treachery of his Danes, and requires the Yellow Star to be worn by all Danish citizens. Then, once again, "Denmark was made up of all Danes."

Touching to the last word, this is a beautifully written and illustrated book for younger students. The story focuses on positive lessons of the Holocaust by highlighting attributes such as loyalty and treating people fairly.

Kate Willis says

I remember really liking this. ;)

Heather says

This book tells the story of King Christian X and his loyal subjects of Denmark. When the Nazis invade Denmark and demand the Jewish citizens to wear a yellow star on their clothing at all times, King Christian becomes worried for his citizens. His country is one giant family and to him, he couldn't let any of them die. After he had some time to think, he concocts a plan to stop the killing of innocent people by having his entire country wear a yellow star even if they aren't Jewish, once again uniting the people of Denmark.

This story is passionate and a strong saying about the Nazi war. The pictures are simple yet so detail orientated at the same time. The pictures tell the story just as much as the text does, without the pictures the reader would never understand the implications in the story. For example, when King Christian develops his plan, the story doesn't explicitly say what he did but the picture shows him wearing the yellow star. The pictures aren't completely double spreads but they cover the gutter and spread across half of the other page, leaving room for a border on the sides to fit the text in. I think this really adds on to the story telling of it all and puts a lot of emphasis on the pictures in the book.

Christine Turner says

Without the yellow star to point them out, the Jews looked like any other Danes. For centuries, the Star of David was a symbol of Jewish pride. But during World War II, Nazis used the star to segregate and terrorize the Jewish people. Except in Denmark. When Nazi soldiers occupied his country, King Christian X of Denmark committed himself to keeping all Danes safe from harm. The bravery of the Danes and their king during that dangerous time has inspired many legends. The most enduring is the legend of the yellow star, which symbolizes the loyalty and fearless spirit of the king and his people. Award-winning author and storyteller Carmen Deedy has poignantly recreated this legend, which is accompanied by Danish illustrator Henri Sørensen's arresting full-color portraits. The result is a powerful and dignified story of heroic justice, a story for all people and all times.

Subjects

Christian X, King of Denmark, 1870-1947 -- Juvenile fiction.

Denmark -- History -- German occupation, 1940-1945 -- Juvenile fiction.

Upper Elementary & up

J-Lynn says

The author asks that this book be read as a legend instead of historical fiction. She argues that the legend, which has been passed down through generations by oral story telling, is something that we can aspire to, a story that should be told even if the truth of it cannot be proven. I agree. The Yellow Star is a beautiful story of resistance and solidarity during a time of division and horror. The appendix that outlines facts of Denmark's opposition to the Nazi agenda adds depth and discussion ideas.

Luisa Knight says

A short story about King Christian and the country that defied the Nazi's morality.

Ages: 5 - 9

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N_maryellen Rosenblum says

I would have loved this book to have been non-fiction, however the author did make the point that many note-worthy acts did take place in Denmark during World War II. I truly enjoyed the author's commentary at the conclusion of the book and feel that it would be an amazing conversation starter for an older group of children.

Dale says

Excellent book about how you can really make a difference if you take a stand against wrong!

Elizabeth Woodruff says

The Yellow Star symbolizes the loyalty and fearless spirit of the king and his people. When the holocaust happened, Nazi soldiers used the star to segregate Jews and terrorize them. Except in Denmark. King Charles X of Denmark worked hard to keep the Danes safe from the Nazis. The King and his Danes have inspired many legends. Even though this story is just a legend, it is a popular story that brightened the darkness of the Nazi invasion. There is no proof that this story ever occurred. The author thought that its imagery was so

compelling and the humanity to be palpable. There were a few true things from the story, but overall it is just a tale.

I enjoyed this book a lot. I knew it was a legend, but I didn't know until the end that it never happened that way. I like the illustrations in this book. It looks like the illustrator used pastels or watercolor. Also, I liked the positioning of the text on each page. There was more room for illustrations.

I recommend this book for when you are teaching your students about the holocaust. This book would also be good to teach your students about legends. Good book!

Lisa Vegan says

I so appreciated that a Danish illustrator did the illustrations for this book. The illustrations are beautiful, with a cinematic look about them. Just lovely!

Years ago, I remember being so disappointed to learn that this story, of the Danish King wearing the yellow star in solidarity with Denmark's Jewish citizens, was probably not a true tale. However, there is no disputing how the Danish people came to the aid of the Jewish population and saved most of them from being murdered by the Nazis. A short but informative author's note at the end of the book tells of her disappointment when she first learned this tale is a legend, and she also lists the actual heroic things the Danish people did during the Nazi era. In the story, she paints a loving portrait of King Christian X and of the Danish people too.

This is a excellent version of this tale. It would be wonderful to include in a Holocaust studies curriculum because it's an uplifting and inspiring story. It's suitable for primary school children because there's no violence and only vague mentions of what the Nazis were doing and the danger faced by the Jewish people. It's basically about a group of people and their king who tried to do the right thing, which is always a good lesson.

In addition to detailing what the Danes did for their fellow citizens in the early 1940s, the author's note at the end expresses her opinion about why this legend persists and also expresses her hopes that people (her readers) will act in ways to prevent human rights violations.

This is a picture book length version of this story so it's very brief and certainly not in depth, but the way it's told and the illustrations make this an outstanding book.

Mrs. Lynch says

Another book that I read to my third graders as a companion to a reading activity we had done on WWII and the Holocaust.

This book was good and I may have given it a higher rating except that it bothered me that it blurred the lines between history and fiction a bit too much. The story was billed as the "legend" of King Christian X standing up to the Nazi regime by refusing to fly the Nazi flag and wearing a Yellow star in solidarity with Danish Jews. However, this story didn't really happen like that and in my mind, a legend isn't a legend just because

someone says it is...the events have to be passed down. When you have clear facts disputing the story, it is not really a legend in my eyes.

But the story was good and taught a good message, that you can stand up to a bully...although it might teach kids that standing up to a bully is easy, when it is not always so.

Karissa Kelly says

The Yellow Star is a book based on the legend of King Christian X of Denmark and his simply, but smart way to defy Nazi, Germany. In Denmark, King Christian rode his horse through town without a bodyguard because he was so revered by his people. However, when Nazi, Germany took control, fear settled into Denmark, so King Christian decided to show his people that they were strong. Thus, when the Nazi's replaced the Denmark flag with their own, the king sent a soldier to remove it, and even said he would remove it if it came to that. Then, the Nazi's forced all Jews to wear yellow stars, yet King Christian knew he couldn't defy them again, so he came up with a plan. He sewed a yellow star onto his best uniform and rode out through town. The Danes understood his plan and all sewed stars onto their clothes, too. Therefore, King Christian X kept his people and Denmark strong.

I liked this book. Although it was a legend, it still had facts woven through it, and it was an interesting take on the Holocaust. I thought the author, Carmen Agra Deedy wrote an engaging story that focused on the wits of a great king. Also, the illustrator, Henri Sorensen did a fabulous job of creating beautiful illustrations that really helped the reader to picture what was going on.

I think this book would be good to use in a classroom setting. Maybe it could pave the way into talking about the Holocaust or Nazi, Germany because it isn't a very brutal story. Overall, I recommend reading this The Yellow Star.
