

Zlata's Diary by Zlata Filipovic (1993)

Zlatas dagbok.

This book tells us about a ten years old girl, Zlata Filipovic, who wrote her diary (whom she called Mimmy) from 1991 to 1993 during the Bosnian war.

She lives in Sarajevo with her parents and starts the fifth grade in September 1991. Her school life is so interesting and full of activities. But the war begins just before her eleventh birthday and ruins her and others life.

Slowly, slowly, the commentary in her diary changes from chat about her enjoyable life ' with her family and friends, to the nonunderstandable for the tanager political situation in the country. Over the next few months Zlata has to face up to a lot.

She said that because of the war, her childhood had been taken away from her, and she felt robbed by the people who started the war. She missed out on birthday parties, sleeping over with friends, playing in the park, having special events with her family and friends, and going to school.

She could not go outside because it wasn't safe. She was frightened. And she did not know how long this is going to be.

Life became difficult for Zlata and her family. They live in a freezing cold house with no gas, electricity or water and food. They spend a lot of time in the cellar sheltering from the interminable bombardments. Sometimes they had to go to fetch water even it was dangerous. She also had to be very brave when she hid in her basement when there was heavy shelling and shooting around her apartment.

When they did not have gas then they could not cook bread or other food. They tried to use a wood burning stove, but there was not much wood. They had to chop up their furniture to burn, and some people chopped down all the trees in the park.

Zlata felt very sad because her friends were killed. One of her friends was killed in the park near her apartment.

There were many people who moved away from their homes. Even some children had to leave their parents and relatives. Zlata felt sad when her friends left Sarajevo.

6. The language of writing is not difficult, may be because the book is written by teenager. But there were many new words also.

7. I like this book although Zlata didn't write it for people to enjoy. She agreed to the publication of her diary because it is important to tell the world about the horror of war.

8. The ending of the book looks like a soul scream: "This stupid war is destroying my childhood. It's destroying my parents' lives. Why? STOP THE WAR! PEACE! I NEED PEACE!"

9. I would recommend this book to others especially to the young generation, because the experience belongs to them and they are not allowed to make the same terrible mistakes.