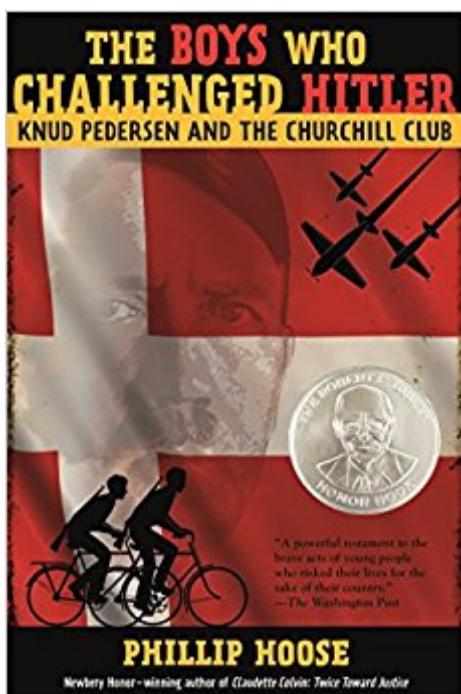


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# The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen And The Churchill Club (Bccb Blue Ribbon Nonfiction Book Award (Awards))



## Synopsis

A Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor WinnerAt the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested. But their efforts were not in vain: the boys' exploits and eventual imprisonment helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance. Interweaving his own narrative with the recollections of Knud himself, *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* is National Book Award winner Phillip Hoose's inspiring story of these young war heroes. This thoroughly-researched and documented book can be worked into multiple aspects of the common core curriculum.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 970 (What's this?)

Series: Bccb Blue Ribbon Nonfiction Book Award (Awards)

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) (May 12, 2015)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 0.8 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 107 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,917 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Europe #2 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Europe #3 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Military

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 8 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 UpÃ¢ In April 1940, occupying German forces made Denmark a "protectorate" of the Third Reich. The Danish government accepted the occupation, but a small group of teen boys, angry at their nation's cowardice, formed the secret Churchill Club to resist the Germans and

conducted a six-month spree of sabotage and destruction. Incorporating lengthy first-person reminiscences of one of the group's leaders, Knud Pedersen, Hoose describes how the club recruited members, exploited their youth and innocent looks to deceive their parents and the Germans, appropriated weapons, and carried out guerilla-style attacks from their bicycles. Although the boys were eventually arrested and imprisoned, their exploits made them national heroes, shamed many adults, and fueled Danish resistance. After the war, Winston Churchill honored their efforts. The book is well organized, effectively integrating Pedersen's vivid descriptions of his group's motives, determination, and sometimes foolhardy bravery within the larger narrative, which includes information about Denmark, the war, and the boys' families and lives. Sidebars, detailed maps, and period photos supplement the text. Often reading like a thriller, this title puts a human face on the often-overlooked Danish Resistance and complements titles such as Michael Burgan's *Refusing to Crumble: The Danish Resistance in World War II* (Compass Pt., 2010) and Ellen Levine's *Darkness over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews* (Holiday House, 2000). **VERDICT** A captivating work that will appeal to many readers. —Mary Mueller, Rolla Public Schools, MO

A Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor Winner — A Boston Globe — Horn Book Nonfiction Honor Winner — A Booklist Editors' Choice — A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year and Best Teen Book of the Year — A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year — A New York Public Library Notable — A Washington Post Best Children's Book of 2015 — "These teenagers risked all—and lost much . . . This energetic work of nonfiction . . . will cheer the hearts of readers whatever their age." — A Wall Street Journal — "An outstanding addition to the WWII canon . . . Hoose brilliantly weaves Pedersen's own words into the larger narrative of Denmark's stormy social and political wartime climate." — A The Horn Book, starred review — "Often reading like a thriller, this title puts a human face on the often-overlooked Danish Resistance . . . Captivating." — A School Library Journal, starred review — "Their story is one of bravery in the face of constant danger and of increasingly meaningful acts of sabotage . . . An important and unforgettable book that adds a significant chapter to the history of WWII." — A Booklist, starred review — "[An] inspiring account." — A Publishers Weekly, starred review — "Hoose tells this largely unknown story with passion and clarity . . . A superbly told, remarkable true story." — A Kirkus Reviews, starred review — "What an edge-of-your-seat narrative it is—and even more compelling for teen readers, who are the same age

as the real-life protagonists. The Bulletin, starred review “A rousing real-life adventure tale.” Christian Science Monitor

Didn't feel over-embellished or hyperbolic. I would've liked a bit more context for how the club was perceived by outsiders during and after the war. Are they given historical credit for being one of the sparks that lit the resistance? Would love a bit more historical context. But it was a good book.

This was an interesting nonfiction book about a group of teenagers who refused to cave in to the Nazis during their occupation of Denmark. Led by Knud Peterson and his small group of friends, they harassed the German troops until they were finally jailed. Being jailed, however, helped the Danes to begin to resist the occupation in small annoying ways. These boys who suffered a great deal became heroes. This was a book written for young readers, as a retired English teacher I do not think many young readers would get this book. It appeals to adults more.

The story is amazing- the bravery of these boys was astonishing. I just wish the writing had been better. The structure of the book was annoying and it seemed to gloss over so many of what seemed to be the most compelling parts of the story. The story of these young men deserved a better written account.

My son wanted this book for school next year. He enjoyed it so much he was able to read quickly.

Another little known story of standing up for right in the midst of Nazi tyranny. The teenagers' feats became the impetus to Danish resistance. Reminds me of part of the Cadets' Prayer at West Point, which goes something like this: Help me, O God, to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong....This should be on a young teenager's reading list.

Gave as a gift. This is a really good book, and I couldn't be more pleased.

bought it for a middle schooler, but ended up reading it myself first. it was really good... I'd think it would be best for a middle schooler who likes reading, or a high schooler.

My 13 yr old son loved this book and finished it in a few days.

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