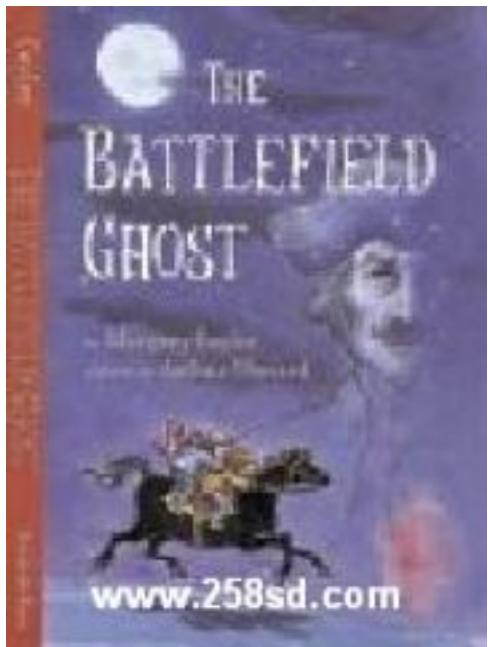


The Battlefield Ghost



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著者:Margery Cuyler

出版者:Scholastic Paperbacks

出版时间:1-Oct-02

装帧:简装

isbn:9780590108492

From Publishers Weekly This patriotic mystery, inspired by legends surrounding the Battle of Princeton on January 3, 1777, stars a brother and sister who move into a historic haunted house near the battlefield. Some initial phantasmal encounters effectively build suspense as an unseen presence strokes John's fingers while he plays the piano, shoves the boy and his sister into a horse stall and even feeds the horse carrots. The siblings discover that the amiable ghost is a Hessian mercenary who fought for the British and whose horse died with him in combat, and by the close of the novel, they reunite the man and his steed. Cuyler (Invisible in the Third Grade) construes the mystery primarily to convey, successfully, the historical events; all other plotting (e.g., John's family erecting a Christmas tree, a visit from the grandparents) feels superfluous. Howard's black-and-white illustrations occasionally

seem at odds with the mood of the text but, at their best, deliver a spine-tingling effect, especially in the opening views of the children settling into their eerie home and the portrait of the ghost himself. A comprehensive concluding note fills in historical details of the decisive battle, and readers are rewarded with a final vivid, ghostly reenactment on the battlefield. Ages 7-10. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title. From Library Journal Grade 3-4-Fourth-grader John and his older sister Lisa have been frightened several times by invisible hands pushing them around the barn of their 300-year-old house, and the siblings get even more nervous when they think that the hands belong to the ghost of a Hessian soldier killed on their property. But John becomes less fearful when he realizes that the phantom is only trying to tell them something-not to hurt them. Cuyler builds suspense early in this tale set in contemporary New Jersey, and includes many details about the Battle of Princeton and the role of German mercenaries in the Revolutionary War. The children sound like history teachers at the end, but the lapse in diction won't prevent young readers from enjoying this liberally illustrated, not-too-scary ghost story. Beth Wright, Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, Williston, VT Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title. See all Editorial Reviews

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