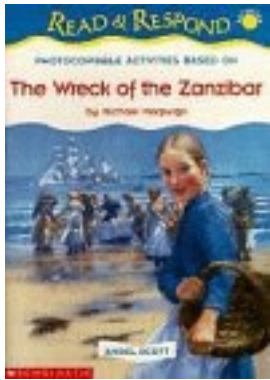


# The Private Notebook of Katie Roberts Age 11



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The war came and took my father forever. I was seven.

Weeks passed, I went to school and the library.

Months slid into years. I went to temple with my mother,

and bought flowers at the market. Oddly, I could still

smile. From time to time, I could even laugh. But

always, the question: Why did my father die in the war?

Why couldn't he just come home, the way you're

supposed to?

More upheaval when I was eleven. That was the

year Mama decided to marry Sam Gold. We would pack our bags and our lives and move to Sam's ranch in faraway Texas. My mother danced through the rooms, happy again. But I was scared.

My favorite neighbor, Mrs. Leilstein, came to the station to see us off. She was old like a grandmother, cozy and wise. We held hands in the station but did not talk much. There were pearls wrapped in cotton for Mama, all the more precious because they were Mrs. Leilstein's pearls. And for me, a notebook of my own, beautiful red leather with 100 lined pages. You could use the crispy paper to write letters. Or, you could make it private and write anything you wanted. I did both.

作者介绍:

目录:

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