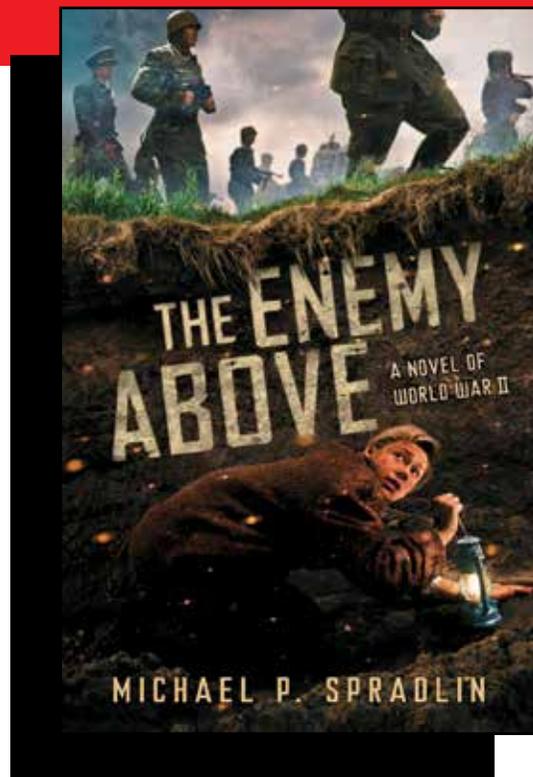


Booktalk!

The Enemy Above Script

For this Book Talk you will need

- 3 actors (Dmitri, Anton, Daniel)
- Dmitri: collared shirt, pants, torn suit jacket, battery-operated lantern, flashlight, canteen, cloth bag containing fake bread & fruit and copy of *The Enemy Above*, rock, pocket watch
- Anton: collared shirt, pants, torn jacket
- Daniel: collared shirt, pants, torn jacket



Dmitri: *(standing off to side of stage, which is in darkness except for light from lantern that Dmitri is holding; beckoning Anton & Daniel over to him)* I have a mission for the two of you.

Anton: *(excitedly)* How may we help, Uncle?

Dmitri: *(sounding serious)* Our nightly excursions are becoming more dangerous. Last night we were nearly captured yet again. A squad of gestapo followed us, but we lost them in the woods. We led them away from the cave, so it took us twice as long to return. We had to dump out the water we were carrying so we could travel faster. *(staring intently at each boy)* The danger is becoming too grave for us. So tonight while we are out, I want the two of you to explore the cave. Elsa and some of the other women will keep watch.

Daniel: What are we looking for?

Dmitri: *(placing his hand on Daniel's shoulder)* A good question, Daniel. *(removing hand and addressing both boys)* Two things. The first is to find out if any of the cave's passageways lead to an underground spring. If we can find a water source in the cave, we will not have to venture out each night. Second, look for another way out of this cave. We need an escape hatch. If we are discovered – if the gestapo should come here – we must have a way to flee. *(handing flashlight & canteen to Anton, and bag of bread & fruit to Daniel)* Daniel, you carry the bread and fruit.

continued on next page...

Booktalk!

- Anton:** I thought you said the passageways were full of twists and turns. How will we keep from becoming lost?
- Dmitri:** *(handing Anton a rock)* Use the rock to mark your way. This limestone will leave a visible line on the rock, like chalk. Draw an arrow every fifty steps. If you become lost, you will follow them back to the main cavern. *(pausing, looking at both boys & handing his lantern to Daniel)* Any questions?
- Anton & Daniel:** *(shaking heads)*
- Anton:** We'll go now. No time like the present.
- Dmitri:** Good. Be careful. Don't take any unnecessary chances. Don't forget that this cave can be dangerous.
- Anton:** *(flicking on flashlight)*
- Dmitri:** *(pulling out pocket watch and checking the time)* Go as far as you can in one hour, then turn back. If you do not return in two hours, someone will come looking for you. *(placing watch in Anton's hand then exiting stage)*
- Anton:** *(to Daniel)* Shall we?
- Daniel:** *(sounding uncertain)* I guess. I do not like the dark. I would rather we were hiding in the treetops than in these underground caves.
- Anton:** *(reassuringly)* It will be fine. We're safe here. *(starting to walk slowly across stage)*
- Daniel:** *(worriedly)* We are not safe anywhere. *(following along behind Anton)*
- Anton:** *(bending down and making arrow symbol on floor every few steps; stopping after several steps & shining flashlight to the right and to the left)* Which way?
- Daniel:** Let's go to the right. *(continuing to walk)*
- Anton:** *(shining the flashlight at a spot on the floor, rubbing hand on floor & sounding somewhat encouraged)* Look. Water. I wonder where it's coming from? *(continuing to walk on)*
- Daniel:** *(slowing somewhat & sounding concerned)* Perhaps we should turn back. I would much prefer it. Turning back would be good, I think.

continued on next page...

Booktalk!

- Anton:** Why don't I go just a little bit further? If I don't find anything, we'll head back. *(continuing to walk then stopping suddenly)* Wait – do you hear that?
- Anton:** Water dripping, I think. It's coming from up ahead. I have to find out for sure.
- Daniel:** *(sounding concerned)* But the passage is too narrow.
- Anton:** *(insistently)* I think I can make it.
- Daniel:** *(increasingly worried sounding)* I don't think this is a good idea, Anton.
- Anton:** *(persisting)* Don't worry. It will be fine. You wait here. Keep an eye on the watch. *(handing pocket watch to Daniel)* I will try to make it as far as I can. Call out to me in fifteen minutes. If I haven't found anything by then, I'll come back. *(Daniel sitting down to wait; Anton dropping down onto hands & knees and crawling along; shining flashlight up at ceiling and all around; continuing to crawl along)*
- Daniel:** *(calling out anxiously)* Anton! It has been fifteen minutes! Are you alright?
- Anton:** Yes, I'm fine. I'll be back with you in a moment. I think I found another way out of here *(pushing an imaginary boulder that's above him; calling to Daniel with effort)* I'm...just...trying...to... Dan– *(falling down; flashlight turning off)*
- Daniel:** *(jumping up and calling out)* Anton? ANTON! Are you ok?? *(holding up lantern and looking around then facing audience)* What's happened to Anton? Are we ever going to get out of here? Are any of us going to survive this terrible war? *(reaching into bag and pulling out copy of The Enemy Above)* The only way you'll find out is if by getting your own copy of *The Enemy Above* from your Scholastic Book Fair.