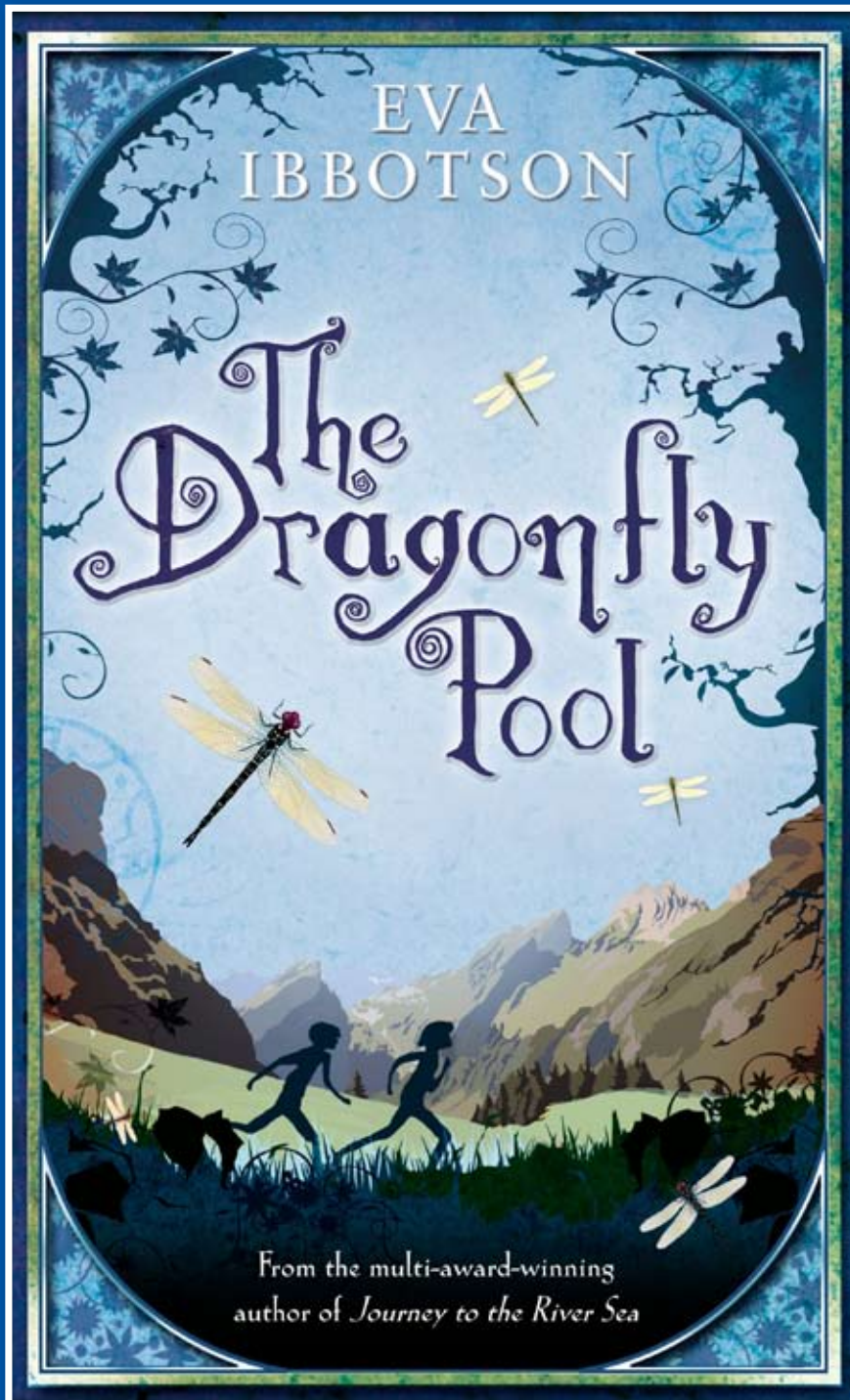


SCHOLASTIC

Book
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AGES 8+



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AGES 8+

Price	£5.99 / €7.70
Case	Read On
Author	Eva Ibbotson
Publisher	Macmillan Children's Books

Using this book in your classroom

Themes

Many themes and ideas run through this rich story, including **friendship** and **freedom**, and how **upbringing** influences our personality and the choices we make.

Summary

This wonderful, warm and moving book begins just before the start of the Second World War. It traces the very different lives of two children – Tally, a doctor's daughter from London, and Karil, prince of the (imaginary) European kingdom of Bergania. As war looms, Tally finds herself sent away from home to a boarding school in Devon, to escape the possibility of bombing. At first she is horrified by the idea but soon she realizes that the unconventional Delderton Hall is a special place – the kind of place where you can learn to be yourself.

Meanwhile, in Bergania, Prince Karil is not so lucky. He is surrounded by the stuffy formality of court life, and his every move is monitored by Frederica, Countess of Aveling. But things become more interesting when a folk-dancing festival is planned and parties of children from all over Europe begin to arrive – including a party from Delderton Hall.

Karil meets Tally and her friends, and longs to be able to join them – Bergania is no longer a safe place to be. When Karil's father, the King, is assassinated, a plot to hand Bergania over to the Nazis is revealed. In the uproar surrounding the assassination, Tally and her friends must risk everything to help Karil escape back to England, away from Bergania and danger. But there are people who will stop at nothing to ensure Karil does not escape...

Did you know?

- Eva Ibbotson based Delderton Hall on a school she went to as a child – the progressive boarding school Dartington Hall.
- Eva Ibbotson has been writing since she was seven years old. She has won many prizes for her books, including the Nestlé Gold Award for *Journey to the River Sea*.

The Story Session

This would be a great book to read from beginning to end as a class novel, or in reading groups. If you don't have the opportunity to do this or would prefer the children to read the book individually, the suggestions below should help you introduce the book and whet their appetites.

1. Introducing the book

Read the blurb to the children, and share their initial ideas about the story. Does it sound exciting? How do they think Tally and her friends will manage to save Prince Karil?

2. Reading the story

- Read pages 8-14 (from 'Dr Hamilton came in from the surgery ...' to 'But she had lost, and she knew it'). Ask: "What do we find out about Tally from this section of the story? What kind of person is she? What do you think will happen next for her?" Share the children's thoughts.
- Read the first few pages at the start of Chapter 11. Ask: "What kind of person is Karil? Do you think he's happy with his life as prince? Why do you think this is?" Do the children think Tally and Karil would like each other if they met?

3. Follow-up

- Either as a whole class or individually, read Chapters 2 and 3. Ask: "How does Tally feel about Delderton by the end of Chapter 3? What do you think the school is going to be like? Will Tally enjoy it there?" Share the children's predictions, and then read Chapters 4 and 5 to see if they were correct.
- Make a mind map or list to show some of the differences between life for Tally at Delderton Hall and life for Karil in Bergania. Which of the two characters do children think is the luckier one, and why?
- How do the children think Tally and Karil will manage to meet up? Encourage them to record their predictions about this before they go on to read the rest of the story.
- Allow the children to find out more about the real historical context of the Second World War by doing some research. Websites such as www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2children and www.iwm.org.uk are good places to start. Children could also use books such as *Horrible Histories: The Woeful Second World War* by Terry Deary (Scholastic Children's Books) or *The Second World War* by Paul Dowsell (Usborne) to learn more about how the war began, and what life was like for children during the war.



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