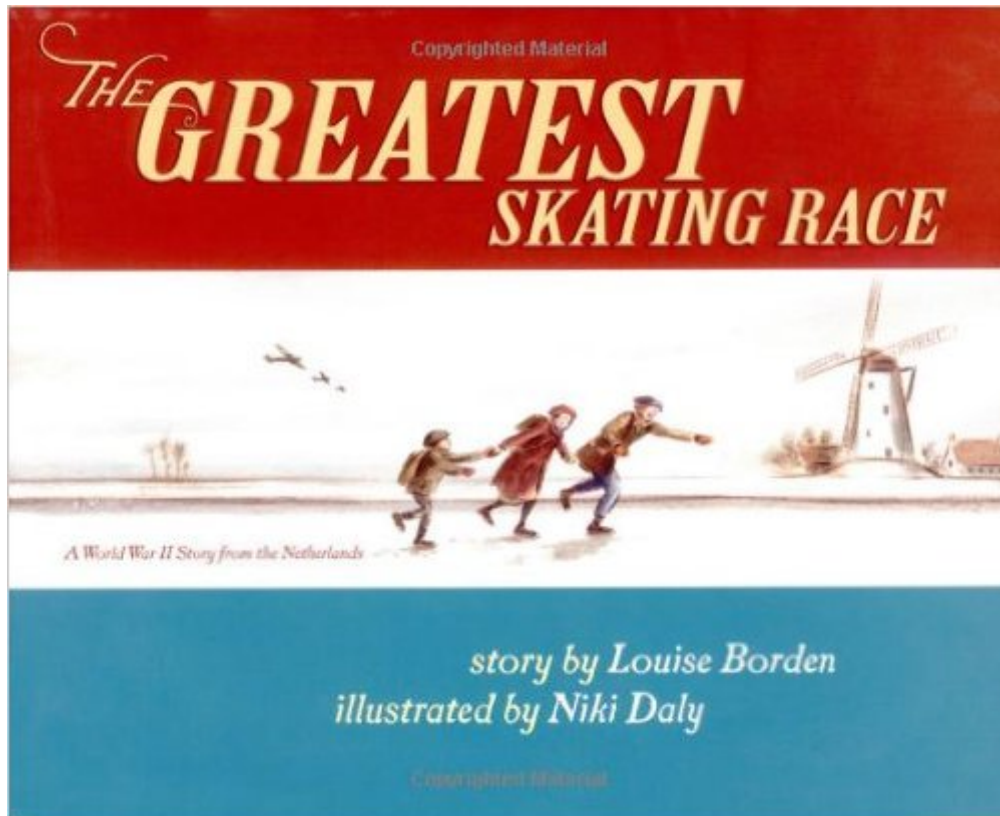


The book was found

The Greatest Skating Race: A World War II Story From The Netherlands



Synopsis

"You're a strong skater, Piet, and you have a quick mind. This is why I know you'll succeed in this important task. I wouldn't ask you to do this if I didn't know it could be done." In 1941 Piet, a young Dutch boy from Sluis, gets the assignment of a lifetime: He must skate along the frozen canals of the Netherlands and across the Belgian border, in order to guide two neighborhood children to their aunt's house in Brugge, where the children will remain for the duration of World War II. Their father has been taken by German soldiers, and the children are no longer safe in Sluis -- but the journey with Piet, past soldiers and enemies, is fraught with danger. Along the treacherous path to Belgium the three children skate using every bit of speed, courage, and strength they can muster. All the time they try to appear like innocent schoolchildren simply out for a skate, for if the German soldiers discover their escape plan, the children will be in grave trouble. During the journey Piet thinks about his hero, Pim Mulier -- the first person to ever skate the Elfstedentocht, the famous and prestigious Eleven Towns Race that takes place in his country. For years Piet has dreamed of proving that he is a skater as brave and strong as Pim Mulier -- but he had never imagined that his test would fall under such dangerous circumstances. Louise Borden's moving text captures all the tension, excitement, and fear that comes with Piet's mission, while Niki Daly's evocative illustrations bring the children and their perilous journey into vivid focus.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 750L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry Books (October 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689845022

ISBN-13: 978-0689845024

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.3 x 9 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #237,203 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Winter Sports](#) #57 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust](#) #183 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Customer Reviews

Parents often find themselves amazed at the sheer number of WWII picture books available to kids today. Why the year 2004 alone was privy to such fabulous tomes as, "The Cats of Krasinski Square", by Karen Hesse and "The Greatest Skating Race", by Louise Borden. Usually such picture books are examinations of the Holocaust and/or Jewish oppression. Borden's book, however, takes an entirely different route. Concentrating on the German occupation in the Netherlands, the book shows how resistance and bravery can flower in children when the need is great enough. Though this book is far too lengthy and involved to seriously interest any child under the age of eight, I'd still recommend it to those tykes that can maintain their interest through a riveting race against time. Piet (pronounced "pete") has a single burning obsession that has yet to be thoroughly quenched. He loves to skate. This is not particularly peculiar in the Netherlands, of course. After all, he comes from a long line of skate artisans and often he traverses the many canals that run through his town. But Piet's real hope is to someday compete in the difficult Elfstedentocht race held in Friesland when the winters are cold enough. Piet's hero, Pim Mulier, once completed the 200 kilometer (roughly 125 mile) course in just 12 hours and 55 minutes and Piet's raring to do the same. But it's the second winter into WWII and the Netherlands are under German occupation. What's worse, a father of two kids in Piet's school was recently arrested by the Germans for passing on information to the British. This places the man's children in dire peril and their only hope is to somehow escape over the border to Belgium and then into the town of Brugge to safety. But how could two such children be able to find their way?

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Greatest Skating Race: A World War II Story from the Netherlands When Ways of Life Collide: Multiculturalism and Its Discontents in the Netherlands Roller Skating in the Desert Still-Life Paintings from the Netherlands, 1550-1720 Figure Skating School: A Professionally Structured Course from Basic Steps to Advanced Techniques Today's Greatest Pop & Rock Hits: The Biggest Hits! The Greatest Artists! (Easy Piano) (Today's Greatest Hits) The Great Race: The Amazing Round-the-World Auto Race of 1908 The World's Greatest Soccer Players (The World's Greatest Sports Stars (Sports Illustrated for Kids)) Heroes: The World's Greatest Super Hero Creators Honor The World's Greatest Heroes 9-11-2001 Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen Tour de France 100: A Photographic History of the World's Greatest Race Pop-up Tour de France: The World's Greatest Bike Race The Kurious Kid

Presents: Race Cars: Awesome Amazing Spectacular Facts & Photos of Race Care Weyward
Macbeth: Intersections of Race and Performance (Signs of Race) Hell from the Heavens: The Epic
Story of the USS Laffey and World War II's Greatest Kamikaze Attack The Forgotten 500: The
Untold Story of the Men Who Risked All for the Greatest Rescue Mission of World War II Travel +
Leisure: The World's Greatest Hotels 2014 (Worlds Greatest Hotels, Resorts and Spas) 50+
Greatest Classics for Recorder: instantly recognisable tunes by the world's greatest composers
arranged especially for the recorder, starting with the easiest (The Ruby Recorder) The Sea
Captain's Wife: A True Story of Love, Race, and War in the Nineteenth Century Fighters and
Bombers: Two Illustrated Encyclopedias: A history and directory of the world's greatest military
aircraft, from World War I through to the present day

[Dmca](#)