

ADA VS. SUSAN

From The War That Saved My Life and The War I Finally Won

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



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GRADE 5 WRITER'S WORKSHOP

RES

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INTRODUCTION

I will be comparing Ada and Susan from The War That Saved My Life and The War I Finally Won, both by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. The War I Finally Won continues the story from The War That Saved My Life. They are told from Ada's point of view. Ada is 12. I will compare the main characters' appearance, personality, actions, motives, and their past.

APPEARANCE

Both Ada and Susan are female and frequently wear dresses. They are slim and quite pretty. We know this from the cover and the description in the book. Ada had a clubfoot (in The War That Saved My Life) and Susan never had any deformities. Also, Ada has brownish-black hair while Susan has blonde hair. Susan is about 50-60 years old and Ada is 12.

PERSONALITY

They are both exceptionally kind. We know this because Susan accepts Ada and her brother Jamie into her care even though they were dirty, uneducated and kind of rude when they first met Susan. Ada would always care for Jamie before herself, and that is very kind. However, Ada is very independent and doesn't like relying on others because she has problems trusting people ever since her mother, Mam (say mum) , neglected her because she had a clubfoot. Ada and Jamie call their mother Mam.

ACTIONS & MOTIVES

Ada always tries to hide her clubfoot, even after surgery. She is afraid that everybody will know about her deformity and not accept her into the world. Her mother said that "Nice people don't like you because you have a clubfoot." So Ada is constantly hiding her limp. Susan always wants to have Ada be less ashamed of her past and tries making Ada comfortable in her home. Because of Susan's care, Ada gets a more normal life. Ada feels like she has a mom again until she learns about Susan's pneumonia. Susan had a best

friend named Becky who died of pneumonia and Susan tried to hide her pneumonia to continue Ada's normal life.

HISTORY

Both Ada and Susan have deceased loved ones. Susan had Becky, who died of pneumonia and Ada had Mam, who was killed in the bombings of World War II. Ada had run away from her neglective mother with Jamie and left London before the bombings.

CONCLUSION

Ada and Susan live similar but different lifestyles, which makes them interesting to compare and read about. I recommend reading The War That Saved My Life and The War I Finally Won. I felt compelled to read the sequel as soon as it came out. I enjoy the stories because the plot is complex and the storyline is gripping. They are available in the public library and most bookstores. Thanks for reading!

