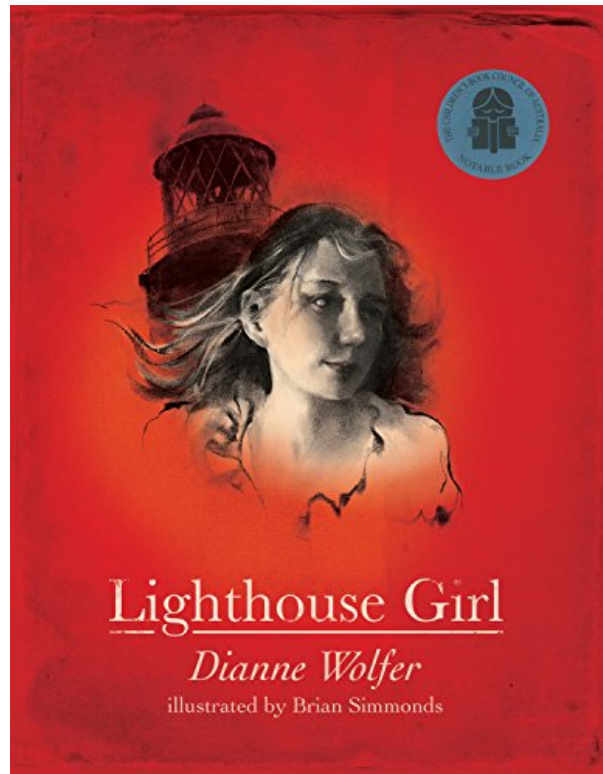
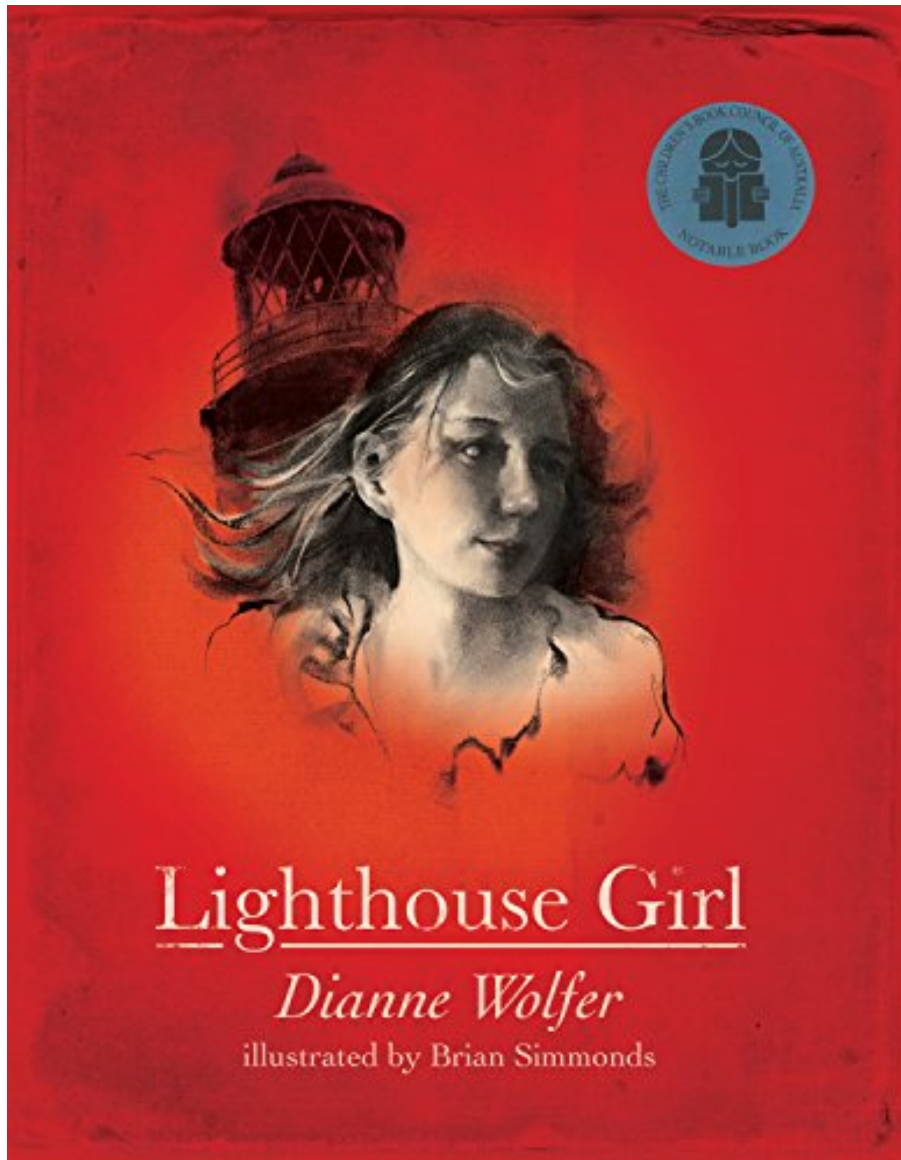


LIGHTHOUSE GIRL BY DIANNE WOLFER



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Review

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About the Author

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LIGHTHOUSE GIRL BY DIANNE WOLFER PDF

This book is specially designed in Amazon's fixed-layout KF8 format with region magnification. Double-tap on an area of text to zoom and read.

At the outbreak of World War I, Fay's isolated life on bleak, windswept Breaksea Island takes a dramatic turn. As a lighthouse keeper's daughter, Fay knows semaphore and Morse code and responds when the soldiers on the ships signal to her. Soon, the soldiers are semaphoring messages for their loved ones, which Fay then telegraphs on their behalf. Although they never meet, Fay eventually becomes friends with one young soldier who has no family. After the soldiers depart for the battlefields of Egypt and Gallipoli, Fay follows their fortunes and continues her long-distance conversations with them through letters and postcards. Drawing on archival material and interweaving fact with fiction, Fay's tale is based on a true story and brings to life the hardships of those left at home during the war.

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- Published on: 2011-04-01
- Released on: 2014-11-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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throughout Australia.

Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Well crafted historic fiction

By Hazel Edwards

Who hasn't wanted to live on a lighthouse?

In 1914, at the start of WW1, 15 year old Faye Howe did live and work off the WA coast with her lightkeeper father.

It's the crafted scrapbook format of 'Lighthouse Girl' which makes this book exceptional and is indicative of the trend towards graphics in varied formats for upper primary and teen readers.

The story is told in Faye's diary extracts, interspersed with wartime photos, maps and anecdotes, by a girl who has to take over her mother's role at the lighthouse, pre-dishwashers, DVD and microwaves.

The story is well paced. Just as interest may be waning, resourceful, 15 year old Faye semaphores the troops leaving, the semaphoric alphabet is included, and Faye passes messages onto loved ones. This girl has initiative.

Brian Simmons' artwork reminds me of the Robert Ingpen edition of Storm Boy by Colin Thiele. Same sense of place and quality.

Using the viewpoint of Faye, author Dianne Wolfer has sensitively balanced the factual content in a way which will appeal to a contemporary teen reader. There's enough variety in the fiction format to retain interest without being didactic. Wolfer has chosen examples such as the donkey and the lighthouse visit of the cinematic crew to film the departing troops to characterise the family workstyle and the daughter's responsibilities. And the ending which deals realistically but sensitively with loss of young local soldiers during wartime, is well written.

Much thought has gone into the design of this book Designer Tracey Gibbs name is so small that this is a mistake in a book where the design is so significant. Maybe it was modesty?

There's a traditional feel to the heavy, red cover and the tactile sense that this is a book to keep. Then a mix of sepia photos, maps, historic settings and the minutia of daily life. Good to see the maps included to orientate today's young readers, who may be unaware of even Albany (and how to pronounce it properly) let alone the war zones.

Jacko the donkey was real. So were Breaksea Island light keepers, the island and the monthly food supply boat. Inbetween Faye did have to shoot rabbits for food.

What will make Lighthouse Girl so attractive for educators, is not just the inspiring story of a real Australian girl, WW1 facts nor that the graphic collage is suitable for older readers, but it fits:

patterns of text structure and organisation of various kinds of texts, including narrative, exposition, verse, narrative voice and point of view which the curriculum requires.

I would highly recommend this book as a good read and a possible film, mainly for the historic and lighthouse setting, but also for the feisty girl and the view of homelife during wartime.

Lighthouse Girl is an excellent example of the growing trend to use historic fiction to attract young readers.

[...] has additional notes and good to see an author aware of how educators appreciate ideas for historic activities and extra background. She also includes a double page of facts 'About Faye' and explains the inspiration for the fictional story. Her Acknowledgements list indicates the detailed research.

Highly recommended.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

she loved, bought a tear to the eye as she ...

By Leslie Adams

Was a gift for my elderly mother, she loved, bought a tear to the eye as she remembered how she wrote to my late father in WW2

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