



## AUTHOR

Phil Earle is an award-winning author who has written more than twenty books for children and teenagers. He loves visiting schools, libraries and festivals to talk to people about the power of storytelling. He lives in Yorkshire with his wife, their five children and two dogs.

## WEBSITE

[www.philearle.com](http://www.philearle.com)

## LINKS

Phil Earle explains the inspiration for his book.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uABbbTdy\\_Zc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uABbbTdy_Zc)

Article providing additional information about the massive WWII pet cull.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-24478532>

Detailed teaching resources.

<https://www.andersenpress.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/While-the-Storm-Rages-chapter-by-chapter-teaching-resource.pdf>



# WHILE THE STORM RAGES

Older Readers Shortlist 2023

## INTRODUCTION

Described by the author as a companion book to *When the Sky Falls*, *While the Storm Rages* is another **animal story** – this time set right at the beginning of **World War II**. It follows three children on a perilous river **journey** in search of safety for their beloved pets. In spite of some hard-hitting moments (involving violence and loss), the story reveals the **courage** and resilience of the youngsters, and ends on a satisfying note for Noah and Winn.

When introducing the book, Chapter 2 is a good point to read aloud as it introduces the three main characters and their feelings about each other. Noah and Clem's understanding of Big Col, the **bully**, is set to gradually change during the story.

## ACTIVITIES

**Read:** Try and find out more about animals in wartime:

<https://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/440244/What-happened-to-Britain-s-pets-during-the-second-World-War>; or the important jobs some animals did <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/9-famous-animals-from-the-first-and-second-world-wars>

**Write or Illustrate:** Write a letter from Noah to his father, telling him how he and Winn ended up being evacuated to the safety of the Donnelly-Brown's farm.

**Make:** Design a poster for recruiting volunteers to help the RSPCA's animal rescue centres that sprang up during the war.

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/-/saving-animals-in-a-crisis-then-and-now-1>

## NOW READ ON

*Edgar and Adolf* by Phil Earle (OUP, 2021) Based on a true story of the wartime friendship between two footballing heroes – one German and the other English.

Look out for three other WWII books on the CBA's Pick of the Year top fifty:

*Nisha's War* by Dan Smith (Chicken House, 2022) A ghostly wartime adventure set between N E England and Singapore.

*Resist* by Tom Palmer (Barrington Stoke, 2022) Based on the true story of actress Audrey Hepburn's work as a member of the Dutch resistance.

*Never Forget You* by Jamilla Gavin (Farshore, 2022) A story about teenage friendship based on the true story of a British agent in France.