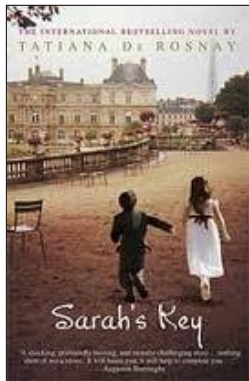
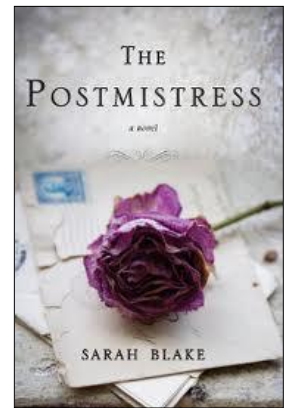


World War II Fiction

Last year, for Remembrance Day, we looked at some fiction and non-fiction about Canadians in the First World War. This year, let's look at some interesting fiction about the Second World War. Most of these are popular and can easily be found at your library whether it is in Rideau Lakes or elsewhere. The common theme of these books is how the war effected people in their every day lives.

Postmistress by Sarah Blake.

Blake weaves together the story of three very different women and their experience of the war. Much of the book takes place in a small town in Cape Cod in 1940, just before the United States entered the war. The contrast between ordinary life in America and the nightmare in Europe is well shown. As reviewers say, Blake displays a deft sense of character and a willingness to tackle big questions about war and peace. A New York Times bestseller for many months when it was published in 2010.

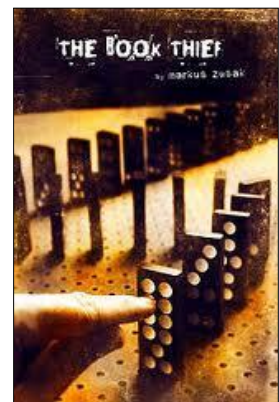


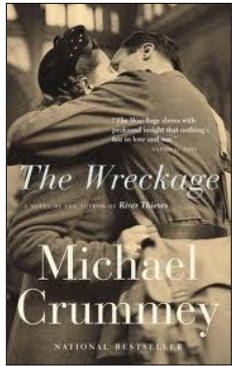
Sarah's key by Tatiana de Rosnay.

This 2008 debut by French author de Rosnay has been translated into 15 languages as well as becoming an instant international bestseller. In 1942, as the Jewish population of Paris is rounded up for the concentration camps, ten-year-old Sarah locks her brother in a closet to protect him. She carries the key with her throughout the war. When an American journalist investigates the destruction of the Jewish population in Paris that year, she stumbles onto Sarah's story. A powerful, brilliant portrayal of France during the German occupation and afterwards...

The book thief by Markus Zusak

The narrator of this book is Death. He tells the story of Liesel, a young girl living in Nazi Germany during the war. After she is transferred to a foster family, Liesel not only collects books but also collects interesting friends. Death is not a sentimental storyteller but this poetic, original novel will captivate the reader. It is also highly recommended as a young adult fiction.





The wreckage by Michael Crummy

Crummy's second novel won a great deal of critical acclaim when it was published in 2005. The story, a poignant love story, alternates between the daily world of Mercedes in Newfoundland and that of her lover, Wish, interred in a brutal POW camp in Japan. Be prepared to be touched by this story – It was a Globe and Mail best book of the year and won several other awards.

Suite Francais by Irene Nemirovsky

Nemirovsky did not survive World War II but her manuscript of this book did. Before the war, Nemirovsky was a popular French novelist. In 1942, she was transported to Auschwitz and subsequently died. Reviewers and authors alike praised this novel when her daughter published it six years ago. It captures the complications of the German occupation in France and the darkening world of the Jewish population. It has been called beautiful, transcendent, and powerful.

