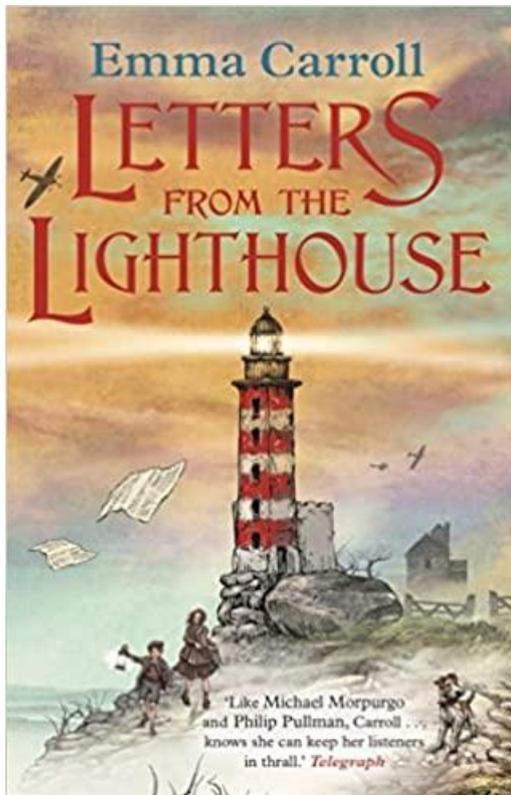


## Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll

### A book for Year 5 and 6 reviewed by Miss Armstrong



#### The blurb:

*We weren't supposed to be going to the pictures that night. We weren't even meant to be outside, not in a blackout, and definitely not when German bombs had been falling on London all month like pennies from a jar.*

February 1941. After months of bombing raids in London, twelve-year-old Olive Bradshaw and her little brother Cliff are evacuated to the Devon coast. The only person with two spare beds is Mr Ephraim, the local lighthouse keeper. But he's not used to company and he certainly doesn't want any evacuees.

Desperate to be helpful, Olive becomes his post-girl, carrying secret messages (as she likes to think of the letters) to the villagers. But Olive has a secret of her own. Her older sister Sukie went missing in an air raid, and she's desperate to discover what happened to her. And then she finds a strange coded note which seems to link Sukie to Devon, and to something dark and impossibly dangerous.

I love history so was very excited to pick up this book to read. I've read a lot of children's and adult books about the Second World War so am very familiar with the events but this one made me think about evacuation in a slightly different way with Olive being part of a group of people across the world who were 'doing their bit' and taking risks to help pass on useful information. We often hear about adults doing it but not children as in this book.

The author writes in a way that makes this book engaging and I was quickly sucked in to wanting to read on and on. There is a strong sense of character and I found myself willing them to succeed in what they were doing and to stay safe, even the ones that didn't seem so nice to start with.

Now I've read this one and enjoyed it, I have discovered that Emma Carroll has written other books too so I have added her name to my reading wish list ready for when I'm next in a bookshop.