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Dyregrov, Raundalen, and Yules' "What is terrorism? A book to help parents, teachers and other grown-ups talk with kids about terror" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Dyregrov, A., Raundalen, M., & Yule, W. (2019). *What is terrorism? A book to help parents, teachers and other grown-ups talk with kids about terror*. Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 78 pp. \$13.95. ISBN 9781785924736

What is terrorism? A book to help parents, teachers and other grown-ups talk with kids about terror is a book to help parents, teachers, and other grown-ups to talk with kids about terror and to help readers to be equipped by the knowledge and understanding of why terrorist threaten and bully the government or people into fear and obedience. The authors use research data to support their statement. They emphasize isolation and pain as the possible causes for young people to be recruited by terrorist organization as well as the negative impact of the media on children's fear and anxiety caused by the news of terrorist attacks broadcasted.

The book is clearly divided into two parts. The first part explores the concept of terrorism. It can be read together with children with the large print, easy wording, and illustrations in cartoon style which make it suitable for young readers. In the second part, the language used switches to a research level. Research data is cited to support the authors' statement. Smaller font size and tighter page layout are used.

The book is also written to help adults who are concerned about communicating with children effectively about fear and terrorism. It provides sample dialogues to show how an effective conversation between a concerned child and a helpful adult would look like. Within the dialogues, the adults not only introduce and explain the concept of terrorism to the inquisitive children, but also comfort them, and assure them that the terrorist attacks are rare even though the media makes it look like they happen very often.

The book is a valuable addition to the current existent books that address terrorism issues. The English spelling such as "centre", "behavior", "antennae", "rumour", etc., and the mention of the European countries and the royal family provide readers a taste of a different culture. The authors are psychologists who were born around the Second World War. They are experienced working with children who have experienced war and terror. They are authors of multiple books that discuss similar topics. The bibliography of research studies cited are listed at the end of the book.

Reviewer

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