

I would like to present you my book. It is called “Across the Barricades” and it is written by Joan Lingard, who is a Scottish author. The story takes place in Belfast during the big troubles between Catholics and Protestants. “Across the Barricades” is the second book of the so called “Kevin and Sadie novels” and Kevin McCoy and Sadie Jackson are therefore the main characters. Sadie is Protestant and her old friend Kevin is Catholic. They have known each other since their childhood and long time ago they even fought with their brothers and sisters and friends against because of their different religious denominations. But in this book they meet each other again and become really fond of each other. But they have to meet secretly because in those days it is not good to be seen with a Catholic boy when you’re Protestant or the other way round. Belfast is divided into two parts: one for the Catholics and one for the Protestants. And things are very bad in Belfast, the British army walks through the streets and they often search Catholic houses. The children play bad games like being a soldier and they often throw stones at the soldiers. Kevin only tells his sister Brede, and Sadie only tells her brother Tommy about their meetings. But unfortunately also other people get to know about their relationship and they really don’t like this. So Kevin and Sadie are called Traitor and Traitor is also written on their houses. They get more and more unknown enemies and because Kevin is even attacked and badly hurt after one of their meetings by three men, Sadie decides not to meet again. But on their last meeting they cross Mr. Blake, who is Sadie’s old teacher and who is taking a walk with his dog Jack. He drives them home and offers them to meet in his house from this time on. Kevin and Sadie are both very happy about this.

And so they meet almost every week at Mr. Blake’s and because Sadie loses her old job she is allowed to work there as a cleaning woman. But then it all starts again: Mr. Blake starts to get threatening letters and on his house is written Traitor in big fat letters. But he doesn’t tell Kevin and Sadie about this, he doesn’t want to make them afraid he thinks they have enough problems. But then Kevin, Sadie and Mr. Blake have a car accident, which was planned by an enemy of them. They are all alive but scared. And then something really unexpected happens to them and Sadie and Kevin have to make the most difficult decision of their lives.....

### My Opinion

I really like this book because it not just interesting but also very exciting and sometimes even shocking. In this book you get to learn much about the Irish history and about the dispute between Catholic and protestant. There are often year dates like 1916 and so you have to know a little bit about the history of Ireland. But what I liked most were some of the quotations because the author wrote sometimes in an Irish dialect. What I didn’t like that much was that there were some parts, which were very unnecessary and sometimes boring. I think that the language is at the right level for 14-year-olds because I understand it very well, although there were some words I didn’t know. All in all I liked it very much and I recommend it to anyone, who is interested in history and especially in the Irish.

## Objects

The first thing I chose is a stone. It should be a symbol for all the violence, which happens in the book, like children fighting and throwing stones at soldiers or each other. Sadie and Kevin themselves threw stones once at each other and also their brothers and sisters do and did it. It was seemingly a normal thing that children threw with stones in those days.

The second object I chose is a little dog. It should personate Mr. Blake's dog Jack. I chose it because Mr. Blake was the only one, who accepted the relationship between Kevin and Sadie and he let them meet in his house although he was endangered.

The third object I chose is a self-made threatening letter. There stands: we have warned you!!! It is exactly the same, which Mr. Blake got but he wasn't afraid of them and burned them just down. I think this letter shows best, antagonized Catholics and Protestants really were.

The fourth object is a bandage. I chose this bandage because Kevin was attacked just because he was meeting a Protestant girl. He was badly hurt after this and couldn't work for a long time and had to wear a lot of plasters and bandages.

The fifth thing I chose is a little car. I chose it because it stands for their car accident, which didn't happen just by chance but it had been planned. They just wanted to have a nice day on the land. Fortunately nobody was hurt.

The sixth thing I chose is a little plastic soldier. It should display the British army, which was initially sent to Belfast to protect the Catholic population but then they became their enemies particularly after the Bloody Sunday. It searched the Catholic houses nearly every day.

## Quotation

My favorite quotation is "I didn't want Sadie and Kevin to be disturbed by them. They are a nice couple and I want them to have a chance to be friends." That is when Mr. Blake tells the police about the threatening letters. And I like this quotation because it shows that Mr. Really likes them both and really wants to give them a chance.

## Words

The two new words I chose are "Traitor" and the verb "to nod". A traitor is someone, who turns against his friends, forgets their common principles and gives away their secrets to an enemy. This word is very often used in this book for someone belonging to a religious denomination, who has friends among the other religious group. To nod means the movement with your head when you agree with something. This word appears very, very often in this book and that's why I chose it.