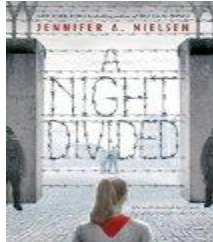


# Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - Historical Fiction



## **A Night Divided.**

**Nielsen, Jennifer A. (author).**

Sept. 2015. 336p. Scholastic, hardcover, \$16.99 ([9780545682428](#)). Grades 4-7.

[REVIEW](#). First published August, 2015 (*Booklist*).

Four years after the Berlin Wall went up, in 1961, 12-year-old Gerta Lowe is eager for freedom and to reunite her family. Separated from her father on Germany's west side, Gerta, her brother Fritz, and her mother live in East Germany under Communist rule and near-relentless scrutiny. One day, she sees her father on a platform overlooking the wall, and she realizes he's trying to send her a message: dig a tunnel! With the help of Fritz, the two siblings plan carefully, overcome dangerous obstacles, and then face the toughest task of all: convincing their mother to escape with them. Although Nielsen (*The False Prince*, 2012) relegates the action to the end of the book, the story's palpable tension and stark details of daily life in Communist East Germany will hold readers' interest. Gerta is a strong narrator—courageous, insightful, brave—whose fiery desire for freedom from communism is noteworthy. Though historical novels may not appeal to every reader, this is equally a story of pressure and friendship, suspicion and strength, forgiveness and understanding.—  
*Jeanne Fredriksen*



## **Booklist Editors Recommend**

Titles similar to *A Night Divided*

- The Other Side of the Wall
- Going Over
- When the Wall Came Down