

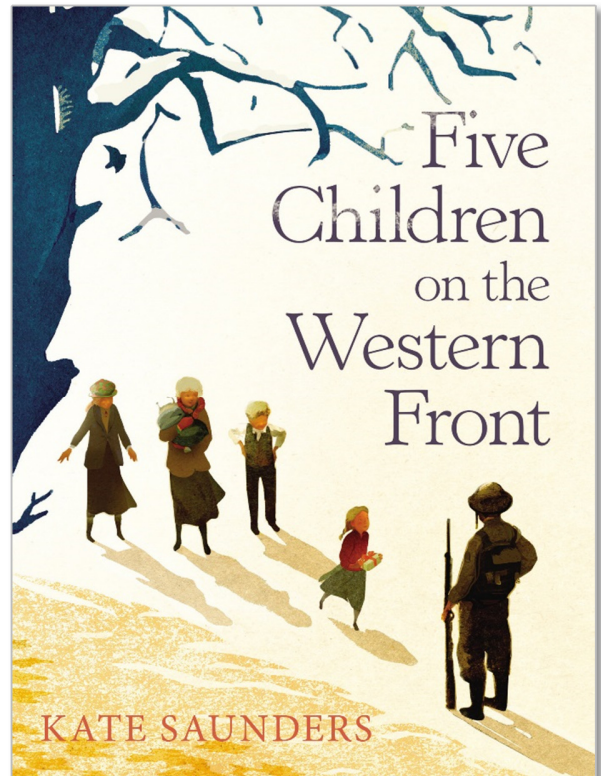
LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of Five Children on the Western Front by Kate Saunders

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

Maddy Faulkner

This incredibly heart-warming book is the sequel to E. Nesbits 'Five children and It', set in England on the doorstep of First World War. Even though the children have grown up and lead their own lives- they still are incredibly close . This story, which still has Anthea, Cyril, Robert and Jane, also has the Lamb ,who was only a baby when the original book was written, and a new edition- Edith. The sand fairy still lives on in the children hearts but just as a story and this is all Edith and the lamb think about him as- just a made up story and then the sand fairy suddenly appears... The younger children are pleased to have something to take there minds off the horrors of the war, but it turns out to be a little more complicated that this because the Psammead is here for a reason and his magic is a little more serious than he makes out it to be.

This last adventure is a fantastic magical book which will bring the child out in everyone.



Amie Coffman, age 10

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It is a sad and funny family story and the writer takes time to describe the characters really well. My favourite character is Edith as she is the youngest child and I can relate to her best. I felt I learnt a lot about her character. I also felt I understood more about living through the war after reading this book. It was heart-warming and a real page turner. I cried at the end though! I would really recommend it to

other young readers. Even though it is on a difficult topic it is a great book to read.

Evie Hollingshead, age 10

Great book that describes family life during the war times with a sand fairy reappearing to the children who are now grown up. Why is it here? An exciting read!

So the sand fairy reappears and all the children from the first book 'Five Children and It' have grown up. It is now war time, but why has the magical creature come back? All will be revealed in the end!

A fantastic book that tells a lot about family life during the war time. I especially liked reading all the letters in the book and could imagine being a child during the war.

I would recommend this book to others.

Sam Harper, age 10

A nice, emotional story which will be enjoyed by readers of all ages.

Years after we first met the Psammead in 'Five Children and It', he returns in 'Five Children on the Western Front'. He is just as naughty and rude as ever and now he must repent for all of his tyrannical actions during his reign as a desert god. He turned two lovers into stone and another slave into a donkey whose ears never recovered. He doesn't find it easy being nice but Edie, the Lamb, Cyril, Anthea, Robert and Jane still love him. He can grant them wishes, which are sometimes a bit willy-nilly in the way they come about, but he can't make the War go away or save their loved ones from being hurt.

*The First World War plays a big part in this story and affects the lives of all of the characters. **It made me think about what it would have been like to have lived during the War and also what it would be like to have my very own sand fairy!** This is a nice, emotional story which rolls along. It's not action packed and it doesn't have a big climax but you can still enjoy the story and I'm sure that readers of all ages will love it.*

Lucy Minton, age 11

An exciting wartime novel.

'Five children on the Western Front' is a sequel to the much loved 'Five Children and It' trilogy by E. Nesbit. In this book the five original children are grown up and the Lamb and his younger sister Edie are the ones to find the old Psammead. But with Cyril off to war, things are serious. Is it possible for the Psammead to fix this problem?

*This book was as good as the first three. Having read E Nesbit's books I wasn't sure about this one. How wrong I was. **Kate Saunders brought the characters to life. I also loved the story in this book. I was on the edge of my seat.** I really enjoyed finding out what happened to the characters. It was really enjoyable having the Lamb as one of the main characters. This is an exciting wartime novel and I really recommend it.*

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

A wartime adventure story based around children and fairytales. This is a follow on to the 'Five Children and It' stories set on the eve of the First World War but the children have now grown up.

*The 3 eldest children have now grown up and the fourth is in high school. I love Lamb, now 11. He was called this because of the first words out of his mouth being Baa. We meet a new child in this story, the baby of the brood, Edie. The sand fairy / Psammead reappear and the magic makes the 2 youngest characters experience so much more than they could imagine. **A beautiful story suitable for boys and girls from age 9-12 approximately.***

Benjy Randall, age 10

A truly amazing book, I couldn't put it down. A complete page turner.

'Five children on the Western Front' is a book about the Pemberton family from 'Five Children and It' and their adventure with the Psammead. World War 1 is underway and the Psammead is trying to redeem himself for all of his previous misdemeanors by trying to recreate his past and improving his decisions. Compared to the original series, this book was the best by far because the style of writing was more modern and it was exciting to read about the children being all grown up. My favourite bit was when the children were like ghosts – read this book to find out what I mean...

Alice East, age 9

This book is about five children and a sand fairy. The sand fairy is magical and has the ability to grant wishes for the children.

The book is set during the First World War. The sand fairy has been banished from Egypt and the Queen of Egypt wants him to apologise for all the bad things he has done. The children use the wishes to see their brother who is fighting in the war and it puts them in danger too.

I would recommend this book. It is a sequel to 'Five Children and It'. You don't need to read that book first but it might help to understand the characters better.

Jemma Rubens, age 10

*This fantastic book introduces a new psymmead, who is living with Anthea, Cyril, Robert, Jane, the Lamb and Edie for quite a different purpose to granting wishes. You find out about his horrible past, and how he wishes to repent. However he has lost his power, and cannot grant wishes anymore! **This is a brilliant story, and I loved it!***

Jennifer Bridgeman

An incredible book which belongs in every child's house. It is hard to articulate in 30 words how moving it is. A must read in this year of all years. Superb.

We cried from the very prologue. The children have seen and read '5 Children and It' and we were delighted to read this authorised sequel by one of my favourite writers. It is haunting, stunning, filled with pathos and the gravity of war. The children are older, the Psammead on its last adventure. They travel a little way into the future and their future is the First World War. It is a truly remarkable tale that will capture the heart of the reader.

Ella Hewitt, age 12

This sequel by Kate Saunders, wasn't for me. I felt that the characters in the book were quite deep and the other characters weren't talked about so much. The story line had no base or sense. I found the way the Psammead talked about

*the history of the world quite a lot quite droning. **I like all of Kate Saunders books** so I'm not saying I don't like her writing **but this book really wasn't for me unfortunately.** I think this book is perfect for 9+ or for people who enjoy history and adventure- both boys and girls.*

Charlie Swan, age 8

This book is based on 'Five Children and It' by E Nesbit, which I really like. But this book takes place in 1914, nine years after 'Five Children and It'. The story is set in World War One. This story is mostly about Hilary (nicknamed the Lamb) and Edie, who are the two youngest children. They meet the Psammead, a character from 'Five Children and It'. He is a sand fairy who had been a god with magic powers. The Psammead feels that he can't grant wishes any more, but every time someone makes a wish the wish comes true. Two of the boys (the oldest, Cyril, and his younger brother, Robert) join up to fight in the war.

The book follows on from the first book very well. It is important to read 'Five Children and It' first.

This book is sad, happy and very imaginative. I enjoyed reading it and would give it 10 out of 10!