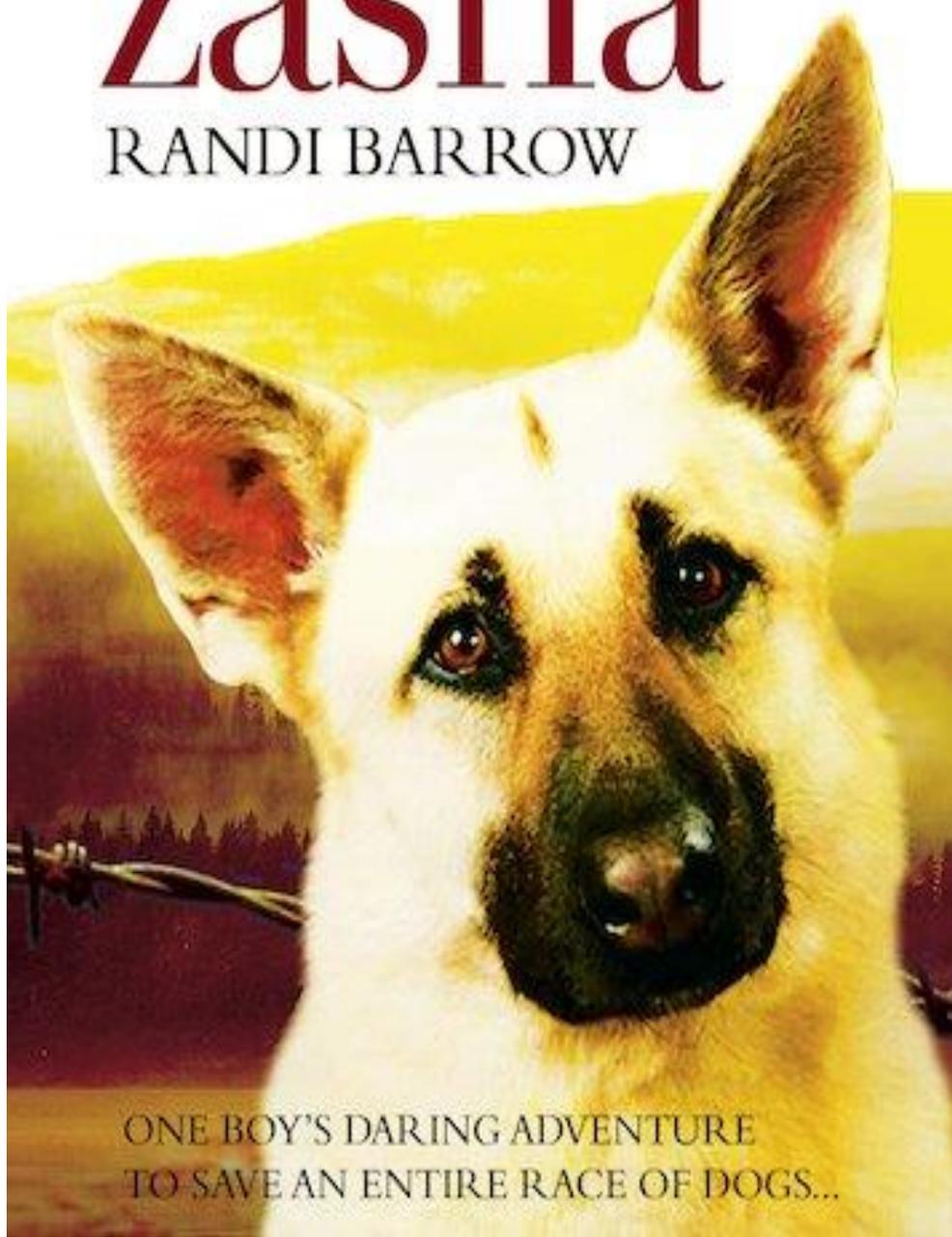


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saving
zasha

RANDI BARROW



ONE BOY'S DARING ADVENTURE
TO SAVE AN ENTIRE RACE OF DOGS...

Overview:

World War II has just ended when thirteen-year-old Mikhail finds a dying man and his German shepherd, Zasha, in the woods.

It's dangerous-some say traitorous-to own a German dog after Germany attacked Russia, so Mikhail must keep Zasha a secret to keep her alive. But Mikhail's rival, Katia, is determined to find the dog she is sure he's hiding. At the same time, a soldier named Dimitri is breeding a new Russian dog at a nearby farm.

So many dogs were lost to starvation and in combat that the country is in dire need of every kind of dog. Dimitri, too, has suspicions of Zasha's existence, and would like nothing more than to add her to his breeding program.

Mikhail's inspiring journey to save his best friend, the last German shepherd in Russia, forces him to face some of life's hardest lessons about war, hate, forgiveness, hope, love, and man's best friend.

Saving Zasha Questions by Stephen Hayes:

Prologue:

1. What did the two men come looking for?

2. Where were the two brothers when the men arrived at the farm?

3. Which job was Nikolai trying to do?

4. For how long had Russia been at war?

5. What did Nikolai say about how their Father had died?

6. What did Mikhail say about their Father?

7. Why did Mikhail's hands start to shake?

8. Why did the man pull back his coat?

9. How did the man threaten the brothers before he left?

10. What promise did Mikhail make if their Dad made it back home alive?

11. What did Mikhail want to do straight after the men had left?

12. How did Nikolai caution his brother?

Chapter One 7-16:

1. Where did Mikhail go for a ride on his horse?

2. Where did the man appear from?

3. Why did the man ask Mikhail for help?

4. Why did the man whistle?

5. What was Mikhail's Mother doing when he brought the man back to their house?

6. What did their Mother keep hidden in her pocket?

7. How did the man feel when he looked up at their mother?

8. Why did the mother call for Rina and Nikolai to help?

9. What made Mikhail realise that the man's condition was serious?

10. How did the man react when their mother wanted to put the dog in the shed?

11. How did their mother try to help the man?

12. Why was Mikhail glad that they had found out the man's name?

Chapter Two 17-20:

1. What did their mother want to do with the dog?

2. How did Mikhail know that the man had died?

3. Why did Mikhail drop to his knees?

4. How had the war impacted on the families in the village?

5. Why did the Russian people want to get revenge on Germany?

6. How did Mikhail convince his mother to keep Zasha?

7. What did their mother ask them to do if she let them keep the dog?

8. What did some Russians think was their duty?

9. Why did their mother shake her head?

10. What did Zasha do when Mikhail called her?

11. Why did he wait for one minute?

12. Where did Mikhail make a hiding place for Zasha?

Chapter Three 21-27:

1. How did they bring Petr's body into town?

2. Why didn't the family talk, laugh and sing as normal that morning?

3. Why was Mikhail worried?

4. Why was the Police Station familiar to the children?

5. What did their mother tell the Police Captain?

6. Where did they meet Katia?

7. Why didn't the boys like the girl from their class?

8. Who was with the girl?

9. What did the Police Captain ask Mikhail and Nikolai to help with?

10. Where was Katia writing down her information?

11. Was it busy in the town?

12. Do you think the reporter liked Katia?

Chapter Four 28-32:

1. Why was Mikhail's heart beating faster than normal on the way home?

2. Why didn't Mikhail help his brother to un-harness the horse?

3. What did Rina say to Mikhail about the Germans and training dogs?

4. Why did Zasha flinch when Mikhail spoke?

5. How did their mother calm down the row between Rina and Mikhail?

6. What did she ask them about the war?

7. What did their mother tell them that the Russians army had done with their dogs?

8. What did their mother say about the Americans in the war?

9. What do you think Mikhail whispered softly about his father?

10. What did Rina say that she was beginning to forget?

Chapter Five 33-42:

1. Why did Nikolai keep a pitchfork near the back door?

2. How did the family feel about having Zasha in the house?

3. Which food did they run out of?

4. Whose room would Zasha sleep next to?

5. What did Rina and their mother make?

6. What food did Mikhail feed to Zasha?

7. Why did Mikhail get upset with Rina?

8. What was their family motto?

9. What did their mother say about Zasha if she caused unhappiness in the family?

10. How did they decide which child would be Zasha's "owner"?

11. How did Mikhail help his brother and sister to not feel so bad?

12. What did their mother warn them about Zasha?

Chapter Six 43-52:

1. Why was the following week an intense week for Zasha?

2. What did Rina invent with Zasha?

3. Why was it not so difficult to get food now?

4. Why did Zasha need lots of exercise?

5. Why did Zasha growl during breakfast one morning?

6. Where did they hide Zasha when Katia called?

7. Why did Katia say that she had called over?

8. Why was Mikhail impressed with his mother that morning?

9. What did Katia say about Petr's clothes?

10. Why did Katia ask them about a dog?

11. How had Katia travelled to the Tarkov's farm?

12. Why was Mikhail shaken by Katia's visit?

Chapter Seven 53-59:

1. Why did the boys decide that Zasha couldn't be kept in the house?

2. Where did they choose as a hiding place?

3. How long did Nikolai think that they'd have to keep Zasha hidden?

4. What did Nikolai say about the stream?

5. In what way did the boys think that Zasha was "last"?

6. What did Mikhail think would happen to Zasha if a Russian person found her?

7. In your opinion, why did Mikhail want to find other hiding places for Zasha?

8. What did their mother say about the Germans?

9. Why did the boys worry about the Gypsies?

10. How did the boys take a break from disguising the cave?

11. How did Zasha surprise them as they sat with their feet in the water?

12. How did Mikhail feel about Zasha?

13. How did Zasha feel about joining in their singing?

14. How did Zasha's "singing" inspire the boys even more to make a safe hiding place?

Chapter Eight 60-71:

1. How did the Mikhail's bad dream save Zasha that morning?

2. What had he dreamt about?

3. How long did Mikhail stay in the cave with Zasha?

4. What did the boys think about the men who had come to their house in the yellow van?

5. What did Mikhail realise that he'd have to teach Zasha?

6. What had the boys built with bales of hay?

7. What did Mikhail say that their job was?

8. How did they know that someone was coming?

9. What job did Katia believe she had?

10. Which story was Katia "reporting" on?

11. What did Katia think about the dead man?

12. What had Katia taken from the dead man's coat?

13. How had Katia identified the origin of the hairs?

14. What did Katia say would happen to Zasha?

Chapter Nine 72-76:

1. What had the children promised their mother?

2. Why did Mikhail want to wait till dark?

3. Why didn't Nikolai like cleaning the goose pen?

4. How did Mikhail tease Nikolai about the goose?

5. What did Nikolai say about being prepared?

6. Which game did Mikhail play with Zasha?

7. Why did he collect tinder?

8. Why did Zasha nudge the treats that Mikhail tried to feed her?

9. What did Mikhail ask Zasha about as they lay in the cave by the little fire?

10. What did Mikhail dream about as he fell asleep?

Chapter Ten 77-86:

1. How was Mikhail woken?

2. How many voices did Mikhail think that he could hear?

3. How did the men behave?

4. Why did Zasha start to moan?

5. What did the men think that they were hearing?

6. Which sentence made Mikhail into action?

7. What did the men say when they shone the torch on Mikhail and Zasha?

8. Why did Viktor wish to capture Zasha?

9. How had Mikhail's father warned him about a drunken person?

10. Why did Mikhail decide not to lead the men towards the Golovkin's farm?

11. Where did Mikhail decide to lure the men?

12. What did he do to attract their attention?

13. How well did his plan work out?

14. Why did Mikhail keep going "Just for luck"?

Chapter Eleven 87- 92:

1. What did they see in the bedroom?

2. Why did Mikhail's mother wait up late?

3. How did his mother look as she sat reading?

4. What did Mikhail think had upset her?

5. What had his mother been reading?

6. How did his mother look when she told Mikhail about the poem?

7. What happened to Mikhail as he read the poem?

8. How did Zasha react to seeing Mikhail and his mother upset?

9. What made Mikhail secretly happy?

10. What did his mother notice as Zasha rolled over onto her back?

11. How did Mikhail's mother use his hand to show him the news?

12. How did Mikhail feel about the situation now?

13. What did Mikhail ask his mother about Zasha?

14. How did his mother respond?

Chapter Twelve 93-101:

1. What made Mikhail "unbearably sad"?

2. How did he feel about Zasha having puppies?

3. What did Nikolai think of the news?

4. Where did Mikhail decide that he and Nikolai should visit?

5. What did they plan to do when they got there?

6. What did Mikhail say to Zasha as he patted her head?

7. How had their region escaped the worst effects of the war?

8. What had happened to the Orlov's dairy farm?

9. Describe the man who caught the boys on the farm?

10. Which warning did the man give to the two boys?

11. What did the man offer them?

12. How did the boys feel about this "invitation"?

Chapter Thirteen 102-110:

1. What did the man say to the cat?

2. How did the man's house look?

3. How did the man describe Katia?

4. What did Mikhail ask Dimitri about the kennels he was setting up?

5. What did Nikolai like most about dogs?

6. What had the boys' father forbade them to do regarding animals?

7. What did Mikhail tell Dimitri about their father?

8. What happened?

9. What did Dimitri say about soldiers after the war?

10. What did show the boys next?

11. What was Dimitri's plan?

12. Who had asked him to carry out this plan?

13. How were dogs used in the war by both sides?

14. What had Dimitri noticed on both boys?

Chapter Fourteen 111-117:

1. What did Zasha smell from the boys?

2. What did Mikhail say that he and Nikolai were doing?

3. What did Mikhail say about the war with such vehemence that they all turned to look?

4. How did Nikolai explain Dimitri's plan?

5. How did Rina react to the news of Zasha's puppies?

6. How had their mother coped since their father had left for war?

7. What did Mikhail think that one more problem could affect their Mother?

8. What had Nikolai seen in Leningrad?

9. What did Mikhail what said cause his Mother to smile?

10. Why was Katia such a problem?

11. What did their mother say about Mrs. Kuklova?

12. What did Nikolai think that they should do about Katia?

13. Which plan did their mother devise?

14. Which decision did Mikhail say they would have to make urgently?

Chapter Fifteen 118-122:

1. Why was there "no hope" in the living room for a dog and her puppies?

2. Why did Rina get down on her hands and knees?

3. What had Rina found?

4. What would they have to make in the cupboard downstairs?

5. Why did Mikhail gasp as Rina was speaking?

6. How did Nikolai add to the hiding-place plan?

7. What did Mikhail propose to drill?

8. How did Rina feel about figuring out the problem?

9. How did Nikolai tease Mikhail about cutting the oak floor?

10. Where did their mother plan to go so that the boys could start the work?

Chapter Sixteen 123-127:

1. What did the boys discover about the job?

2. What did the boys think could happen before they got the job done?

3. How did the job make the boys think of their father?

4. Why did the boys decide that they couldn't defy the world like their father did?

5. How did the talk about "being a man" speed up the work?

6. What didn't Mikhail want to admit to Nikolai?

7. What had happened to their tools since the war?

8. Why did they need to make a trip into the town?

9. Why did the boys decide to go to town in several small trips?

10. What did Mikhail say to Zasha as she followed him to the door?

Chapter Seventeen 128-131:

1. Why did Rina look proud?

2. How did Rina tease her brothers?

3. What did Rina discovered in Katia's bedroom?

4. What had Katia done with each of her drawings?

5. Why was Mikhail confused about Katia now?

6. What did their Mother say about Katia and Petr?

7. What had Katia said about their family if they had a German dog?

8. Why made Katia “more dangerous” now?

9. Which thought made Mikhail breathe heavily?

Chapter Eighteen 132-140:

1. How did the wind in his face and the steady rhythm of the horse help Mikhail?

2. How did Mikhail try to feel about Katia?

3. Why was Mikhail drawn to the newspaper office?

4. What was it like in the newspaper office?

5. Why did Mikhail say that he had called in to talk Miss Irina?

6. How did she react to the mention of Dimitri?

7. What did she think of his plans?

8. Why had Dimitri been put in jail?

9. What did Dimitri do in the army?

10. What did Miss Irina say about the men returning from war?

11. What news did Miss Irina have about Petr?

12. Why did Miss Irina want to talk some more with Mikhail?

13. Why did Petr’s wife wish to meet Mikhail?

14. Why did Mikhail feel like the saddest boy in all of Russia?

Chapter Nineteen 141-143:

1. Why were the boys restless that night?

2. Why did Zasha find it difficult to get comfortable that night?

3. What was it that they had the lots of work to do on?

4. Why was Mikhail worried about speaking to Petr's wife?

5. What did Nikolai think was the one question that they needed to ask themselves?

6. As well as being truthful, what else had their father taught them?

7. What did they decide to do?

8. How did the boys think that Zasha might help Petr's wife?

9. What did Nikolai think they could do, even if they had to give Zasha back?

Chapter Twenty 144-148:

1. What did their mother insist upon?

2. How did Mikhail threaten his mother?

3. What did Dimitri ask as he burst through the door?

4. What had happened at Dimitri's kennels?

5. Why did Dimitri want to take Zasha?

6. What did Mikhail's mother say to him?

7. What did Dimitri say when he saw Zasha?

8. Why didn't Zasha jump into Dimitri's jeep?

9. When did Dimitri say that they would get Zasha back?

Chapter Twenty One 149-158:

1. How did Nikolai and Rina feel about Mikhail's decision?

2. What did their mother ask?

3. Which noise did they hear next?

4. What returned to their mother's eyes as the men were banging on the door?

5. How did the men react when the door was opened?

6. What did they order the dog thieves to do?

7. Why was Rina sent to the barn?

8. How did their mother threaten the men on the floor?

9. What did Mikhail's father's voice say to him?

10. How did the men greet the visitor?

11. Where did Dimitri lead the three men?

12. How did the dog thieves try to get out of the situation?

13. What did Dimitri ask Nikolai?

14. Why was Mikhail happy?

Chapter Twenty Two 159-164:

1. How did they cause a stir in town that day?

2. What did Dimitri say to the police captain?

3. How did policemen look as he saw the stolen dogs in the van?

4. What had Mikhail completely forgotten about?

5. How did Irina introduce Mikhail to Petr's wife (Mrs. Gribovich)?

6. What was Mikhail about to say when Irina spoke first?

7. What did Irina show to Mrs. Gribovich?

8. What happened next?

9. What did Petr's wife think had happened to his coat?

10. Why did Irina apologise to Petr's wife?

11. How did Mikhail try to help Irina out?

12. What had happened to the city of Leningrad during the war?

Chapter Twenty Three 165-170:

1. Why did Mikhail ask to speak with the police captain?

2. Who did Mikhail think about before he spoke?

3. Why did Mikhail have to stop when he was speaking with the police captain?

4. What did Mikhail tell the captain next?

5. What reasons did Mikhail give for keeping Zasha?

6. How was Katia Klukova involved

7. What did the police captain say about Dimitri?

8. How did the police captain react to the news about Zasha's puppies?

9. What did the police captain decide?

10. How did Dimitri react to the police captain's decision?

11. On which list did Dimitri promise to put the police captain's name?

12. What did the police captain say about dogs in the war?

Chapter Twenty Four 171-177:

1. How did Katia "arrive" at the police station?

2. How did the captain reply to her question?

3. How did Katia say after taking a deep breath?

4. What did Mikhail say about to Katia about being a reporter?

5. Why did Katia sit down in a chair?

6. How did seeing the dog hairs affect Katia?

7. Why did Mikhail have a grudging admiration for Katia?

8. What did Dimitri say to Katia about Zasha?

9. What job did Dimitri offer to Katia?

10. How did Nikolai feel about Dimitri's job offer to Katia?

11. What did Irina ask Katia?

12. What did Irina say about the story of Zasha?

13. What did Dimitri offer to the police captain about the stolen dogs?

14. How did Irina look when Dimitri asked her to come along with him?

Chapter Twenty Five 178-181:

1. How did Dimitri sound as he spoke on the journey?

2. What did he talk about?

3. What made Irina smile?

4. What gave Mikhail a fright?

5. What had Dimitri spotted outside their house?

6. What did Dimitri say to the boys in a scary monotone?

7. What did the soldier in charge say to Mrs. Tarkov?

8. Why did Mikhail gasp when the soldier opened the door of his van?

9. What made the soldier smile?

10. How did Mikhail feel when he heard his father's voice?

11. How did Rina react to seeing her father?

12. Why did Mikhail conclude that Dimitri, Irina and Katia drove away?

Chapter Twenty Six 182-189:

1. What did their father say when he knew the men were struggling to carry him?

2. What did Mikhail think was comical about his mother at this time?

3. Why did Mikhail sit gazing on the floor?

4. What had their father dreamed about since he had left home?

5. What did their father ask them all which made them laugh?

6. What did ask their father?

7. Where had their father spent a year and a half?

8. Why had Dimitri returned?

9. Why did their father get a fright when he saw Zasha?

10. What offer did Mikhail make to his father if Zasha brought back bad memories?

11. How did their father respond to this offer?

12. What happened when Zasha licked their father's left hand?

Five other suggested activities to do based on this novel:

- A. Compose ten questions to be used to interview Nikolai.
- B. Write a book review in 20 sentences.
- C. Write an alternative ending to the story.
- D. Make a ten slide synopsis of the story in PowerPoint.
- E. Tell the story from the viewpoint of Zasha.

Can you find the following words from the novel in this wordsearch?

T	A	R	K	O	V	A	D	G	J
S	F	G	U	N	P	H	G	L	I
V	Q	E	T	S	G	P	E	T	R
A	K	B	G	J	S	N	R	Z	I
S	Y	R	O	L	T	I	M	X	N
I	O	G	L	H	R	K	A	C	A
L	V	N	O	G	M	O	N	B	W
Y	Q	M	V	N	Z	L	Y	V	A
U	J	M	I	K	H	A	I	L	R
N	M	K	N	A		I	S	N	I
Y	B	F	A	T	H	E	R	H	N
D	D	I	M	I	T	R	I	M	A
S	R	D	R	A	O	B	P	U	C

Mikhail War Zasha Nikolai Russia Germany Rina Petr Katia
 Father Dimitri Golovin Cupboard Tarkov Irina Vasily Gun

Prologue Sample answers:

1. The two men had come looking for a dog.
2. The two brothers were at the barn.
3. Nikolai was trying to get some food for the dog.
4. Russia had been at war for four years.
5. Nikolai said that their Father had been killed by the Germans in the war.
6. Mikhail said that they were not sure if their father was dead for certain and that he could be in a prison camp or hospital.
7. Mikhail's was nervous when they were alone with the driver.
8. The man wanted to reveal that he had a gun.
9. The man threatened the brothers with the prospect of being sent to a labour camp.
10. The boys promised to never hate anyone ever again if their Dad made it back home alive.
11. Mikhail wanted to go and see Zasha straight away.
12. Nikolai warned Mikhail that the men could still be watching.

Chapter One Sample answers:

1. Mikhail rode to the edge of the farm to a forest.
2. The man appeared from behind a tree.
3. The man was injured.
4. He whistled to his dog.
5. She was hanging out the laundry.
6. Their Mother kept a knife in her pocket after their dad left.
7. He felt hope and relief.
8. She called for Rina and Nikolai to help carry the man into the house.
9. His mother used the whiskey on the man.
10. The man didn't want the dog to leave.
11. Their mother put herbs on his wounds.
12. Mikhail was glad that they knew his name because he died during the night.

Chapter Two Sample answers:

1. Their mother wanted to bring the dog to the police station.
2. Mikhail knew that the man had died because he was so pale.
3. Mikhail dropped to his knees to beg his mother to let Zasha stay.
4. Almost every family had lost someone in the war.
5. Russian people were angry with Germany because of the war.
6. Mikhail told his mother of all the ways that the dog could help them.
7. Their mother asked them to keep the dog out of sight.
8. Some Russians thought that it was their duty to destroy everything German.
9. Their mother shook her head because she wondered how she had let them convince her to keep Zasha.
10. Zasha stayed with the man.
11. He knew that she was saying goodbye to Petr.
12. He made a hiding place at the far end of the farm.