

Book Summaries

Ranger in Time Series by Kate Messner

01: Rescue on the Oregon Trail



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, travels back in time to the mid 1800s. He joins a family who is traveling to the Willamette Valley in Oregon. The journey holds many difficulties, and Ranger finds ways to help his new friends. His experiences mirror true accounts of travelers who experienced the cross-country Oregon Trail of the historical USA.

02: Danger in Ancient Rome



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, travels back in time to Ancient Rome and finds himself the companion of a slave who serves the gladiators. Tension rises as readers connect with one of the gladiators who is being forced to fight to the death in the infamous Colosseum arena. Meanwhile, a large fire sweeps across town!

03: Long Road to Freedom



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, meets up with sibling slaves who are running away from their Maryland plantation. The chase is on as they are pursued. With help from Ranger and adults they meet along the way, the two narrowly escape capture several times. Will they find safety in the end?

04: Race to the South Pole



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, befriends a boy from New Zealand who had stowed away on a ship. Once discovered, the boy and Ranger officially join the team of scientists and explorers who are determined to be the first to reach the South Pole. Many perils and near-death experiences await them in the unpredictable behavior of the ice and snow.

05: Journey Through Ash and Smoke



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, travels back in time to the Viking age and soon attaches himself to a young girl. She has a tough job ahead of her to find her father before the nearby volcano erupts! Ranger is able to help her out of multiple difficulties they encounter on the journey.

06: Escape from the Great Earthquake



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, finds himself in the midst of chaos as San Francisco is hit by a gigantic earthquake. He is able to help a number of people, particularly from the part of town in which Chinese immigrants live. Segregation and discrimination are gently introduced to young readers.

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07: D-Day: Battle on the Beach



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, suddenly discovers himself in the midst of a fierce battle on France's Normandy Beach. The scene is full of soldiers, deafening noises, and suspense. Fortunately for a few people, including a young Jewish boy, Ranger is able to help in various ways before traveling back home.

08: Hurricane Katrina Rescue



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, befriends a girl whose town was just hit by a massive hurricane. He helps her through many close calls as she inches toward safety in her small boat. They pass so much destruction as they move through the dangerously dirty waters but are also able to help a few others along the way.

09: Disaster on the Titanic



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, gives readers a unique glimpse into the Titanic catastrophe in the early 1900s. His time traveling brings him to new friends on board the already-sailing ship. Through his expert training, he is able to save some lives before readers witness the sinking of the ship!

10: Night of Soldiers and Spies



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, is greeted by the bitter cold of December when he travels to 1776. He meets up with soldiers planning a Christmas attack on the enemy, but first they must get to the other side of the icy river--a difficult task! His human friend is a trained mariner and, together, they help transport men, horses, and weapons.

11: Escape From the Twin Towers



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, discovers two fifth-graders who are career-shadowing at the World Trade Center in September 2001. They, with the throngs of others, make their way down the long stairwells. It's a chaotic and scary time, but Ranger is able to keep them alive and bring them to safety in the end.

12: Attack on Pearl Harbor



Ranger, a trained rescue dog, suddenly finds himself in the midst of a wartime attack. The enemy planes keep coming! He and his new sailor friend are blasted off their battleship and into the sea when a bomb hits. With the help of young Japanese-American children, Ranger is able to save lives and bring comfort.