



# The Time Pirate by Ted Bell

A Nick McIver Time Adventure

Nick McIver Adventures Through Time (Volume 2)

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. The Time Pirate falls under several genres: it combines elements of historical fiction, science fiction and fantasy. Name some books you know in each of those genre categories.
2. Nick travels through time to two different wars: the American Revolution and World War II. What event must Nick stop to save his own country during World War II? And why does stopping this event make Nick feel like a traitor?
3. Nick has a number of dangerous encounters. What does his father know about his adventures? His mother?
4. Nick's parents are taken from their home by the Germans. How does removing them from the setting aid Bell in describing Nick and Kate's adventure?
5. Nick has a dream in which he is riding in a Whirl-o-drome, an aircraft carnival ride. Why do you think Nick has this dream? Is it symbolic of anything and, if so, what?
6. Nick takes his sister into the Dark Forest, where they locate their father's World War I Sop with Camel fighter biplane in an old barn. Together, he and his friend Gunner, restore the old plane. Describe Nick's friendship with Gunner. Why does Nick want to restore the plane?
7. Nick's sister, Kate, is kidnapped by Captain Blood and taken back in time to the 18th century. Why does Blood kidnap Kate? What important information does she discover and how does this change the rest of the novel?
8. In this novel, Captain Billy Blood represents evil. The readers get this impression from what others say about him, how the narrator describes him, and through Blood's own words. Give least one example of each. Then, describe Blood in one sentence in your own words.

9. Billy Blood is gathering the world's largest pirate armada. Why does he do this and what does he hope to do with this large pirate fleet? 10. Motifs are themes, symbols, and images that reoccur in a work. What pirate motifs and World War II motifs can you find in the story? How do they contribute to the setting or the overall feel of reading the novel?

11. Describe Nick and Kate's relationship. In what ways are they alike? How are they different? How do their personalities clash or complement one another?

12. Most adults in the novel come to trust, admire and respect Nick very quickly. Did you find this realistic? Please give some specific reasons you feel this way.

13. Part of the fun of reading *The Time Pirate* is figuring out which parts of the story are based on actual historic events versus those where the author is taking "poetic license", i.e. making things up. Find a favorite scene and explain how Ted Bell stays true to history and/or takes liberty with the truth.

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