

Coast Watcher is a captivating adventure book following the fictional character Frank Benson during the second world war.

The 271 paged book is set in third person and although it's categorised as fiction there are large elements of truth throughout the pages.

Frank is a Kiwi 19-year-old wireless operator determined to prove himself as a soldier when he gets mistakenly shipped out to the Solomon Islands in 1943.

Despite his desire to make a difference in 'Operation Pacific', Frank is still haunted by the looming threat of his Tuberculosis returning after previously being infected.

Soon after arriving, though, he is nominated along with private Wally Ropata and Les Murray to be coastwatchers on another island, supposedly occupied by the enemy, the Japanese.

The rest of the book tells the tales of their adventures and progress as Coastwatchers, including encounters with a native Solomon Islander man, who apparently has vital information on the opposing side.

The remaining question is if they can trust him.

As I see it, a key (and favourite) moment in the story was Frank's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I think the author did a great job at portraying the realities of this moment without glamifying anything too much.

8-12 years old is a good guideline for readers, but in my opinion, this would suit anyone who favours war and history literature.

Overall this book is educational and fun to read no matter who you are.

- Emma, age 13, Nelson