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## Salt to the sea alfred summary

LitCharts assigns a color and icon to each theme in Salt to the Sea, which you can use to track the themes throughout the work. The agency, Willpower, and Fate Family and Community vs. Egoism Page 2 LitCharts assign a color and icon to each theme in Salt to the Sea that you can use to track themes throughout the work. Agency, Willpower, and Fate Family and Community vs. Selfishness Fear are a hunter. But brave warriors, we brush away fear with a flick of the wrist. We laugh in the face of fear, kicking it like a rock across the street. Yes, Hannelore, I write these letters in my mind first, since I can't leave my men as often as I think of you. You'd be proud of your watchful companion, Sailor Alfred Frick. Today I saved a young woman from falling into the sea. It was nothing real, but she was so grateful she clung to me, not wanting to let go. Thank you, sailor. Her warm whisper lingered in my ear. She was quite beautiful and smelled of fresh eggs, but there have been many grateful and beautiful girls. Oh, don't worry. You and your red shirt are first and foremost in my thoughts. How loving, how incessantly I think of my Hannelore and red-sweater days. I'm resuscitated, you're not here to see this. Your sugary heart could not bear the treacherous circumstances here in the port of Gotenhafen. Right now, I'm guarding dangerous explosives. I serve Germany well. Only seventeen, but carries more bravery than the two times my years. This is an honor ceremony, but I am too busy fighting for the Führer to accept honors. Honors are for the dead, I told them. We must fight while we are alive! Yes, Hannelore, I will prove to the whole of Germany. There's actually a hero inside me. Page 2 LitCharts assigns a color and icon to each theme in Salt to the Sea that you can use to track the themes throughout the work. The agency, Willpower, and Fate Family and Community vs. Egoism Page 3 LitCharts assign a color and icon to each theme in Salt to the Sea that you can use to track themes throughout the work. The agency, Willpower, and Fate Family and Community vs. Egoism Salt to the Sea take place in East Prussia in January 1945. Thousands of refugees are trying to evacuate as World War II draws to a chaotic end. Four young narrators from different nations experience the horrors of war. Emilia, a fifteen-year-old Polish orphan, follows Florian, an East Prussian restoration artist. She sees him as her knight after he rescues her from a Russian soldier. Both run into Joana, a Lithuanian nurse who travels with a group of refugees. Everyone is trying to get to West Germany, to the ports of Gotenhafen and Pillau, hoping to get evacuation ships to safety. Meanwhile, Alfred, a bumbling and hateful Nazi sailor, is stationed in the port of Gotenhafen. There he a ship called MV Wilhelm Wilhelm evacuation. As the refugees make the long and difficult journey, they gradually reveal their secrets. Emilia is eight months pregnant after Russian soldiers raped her. She is also persecuted for being Polish and must hide her identity. Florian is also on the run because he stole Hitler's favorite artwork from the Amber Room. He did this to take revenge when he realized that the Nazis were using his talent to help steal Europe's artistic treasures. Joana feels responsible for leaving her family and leading to some of their deaths. When the refugee group finally arrives at the port of Gotenhafen, their lives become increasingly intertwined. Joana and Florian fall in love. Emilia sees Florian as proof that there are good men in the world. At Gotenhafen, they all rely on Alfred's help to get boarding passes. On board Gustloff, Joana works in the infirmary, while Florian hides from the Nazi soldiers looking for him. Emilia gives birth to her baby, Halinka. Suddenly, Russian torpedoes hit Gustloff. Within an hour the ship sinks and thousands die. Joana and Florian escape on a lifeboat with Halinka and Klaus, a young boy who traveled with their group. Emilia ends up on a raft with Alfred. Emilia reveals that she's Pole, and Alfred tries to kill her. The reader learns that despite Alfred's racist ideology, his love interest, Hannelore, is Jewish. In the end, both Alfred and Emilia die. Years later, Joana and Florian live with Halinka, Klaus and their own child in the United States. A Danish woman named Clara Christensen sends a letter to Florian telling her that Emilia's body washed up on her shore and that she buried the body and objects in

florian's flock. Salt to the sea takes place in January 1945, in the last days of World War II. Allied forces are gaining ground both to the west and east, which is why German civilians are evacuating, fleeing violence and running towards the Baltic Sea, where the German navy will transport them to safety. The story is told from four terms of view: Joana is a Lithuanian refugee who was allowed to settle in Germany; Emilia is a pregnant teenager who escaped the genocide that wiped out many of her fellow ethnic Poles and tries to stay off the radar of roving German soldiers; Florian is a former art restaator from Prussia who smuggles a priceless statue he has stolen from the Nazis in revenge after they killed his father; Alfred is a delusional Nazi soldier who works on Wilhelm Gustloff. Emilia meets Florian in a potato cellar, where he rescues her from an attempted attack by a Soviet soldier. Emilia becomes attached to Florian, whom she sees as her knight, and begins to follow him on his journey out of East Prussia. That evening, the two hide in a barn, where they meet Joana and her fellow travelers – Klaus, Eva, Ingrid, and man named 'the Poet. Although the other refugees distrust Florian, Joana is a nurse and feels obligated to help him. She removes shrapnel from a wound on his side and stitches the place closed. In the morning, Florian leaves, and Emilia follows him. The next day, Florian and Emilia accidentally run into Joana again when they all decide to spend the night in the same abandoned Prussian mansion. Although Florian's wounds have begun to heal, Emilia is now clearly ill. Joana examines her and realizes that although only fifteen, she is nearly nine months pregnant. Joana worries the pregnancy is the result of rape, but Emilia assures her that the father of her child is a man named August, whom she loves and is about to meet. The two groups decide to travel together. They go another day until they reach the coast, after which they must cut across a frozen bay. As they begin to cross the water, Allied planes shoot through the ice, and Ingrid, who had been the first to cross, falls into the water and drowns. Shocked by their friend's death, the group still make it across the bay, where they meet a German soldier. Florian has changed his identification papers to make it look like he's on a personal mission for Erich Koch, and then the soldier offers to take him by boat where he's going. Joana and the rest of the refugees persuade Florian to let them go, which is why the group is transported to the town of Götenhafen, a port city where they will be able to board a ship and, they hope, sail to freedom. In Götenhafen, the group meets Alfred, who works at Wilhelm Gustloff. All but Eva manage to get a boarding pass to the same ship - Joana by acting her expertise as a nurse for safe passage, Florian by forging his. Joana starts working in the maternity ward. There, she cares for Emilia, who gives birth to a young daughter, Halinka. As she goes into labor, Emilia reveals that Halinka is not August's child, but the result of rape at the hands of Soviet soldiers. Initially unable to see the prospect of motherhood, Emilia eventually warms to her daughter with the encouragement of her friends and fellow travelers. Two days after boarding the ship, it finally sets sail. On the same day, however, Allied torpedoes the hull and causes Wilhelm Gustloff to begin to sink. Joana, Klaus, Florian and Halinka do it on deck and on a lifeboat. Emilia asks Florian to carry her child into the lifeboat. Meanwhile, Florian asks Alfred to briefly keep his package (which contains a priceless stolen artifact, the yellow swan), but then the lifeboat is lowered into the water and Emilia is separated from his child, and Florian from his belongings. Joana and Florian are eventually rescued by a boat that comes to rescue the drowning and freezing refugees, but Emilia and Alfred, although they manage to board a at sea. Alfred, who has written letters to his beloved Hannelore for much of the novel, reveals that Hannelore was Jewish and that he turned her over to the Nazis when she thwarted him. Overcome with rage, delirium, and hypothermia, Alfred first confuses Emilia for Hannelore, and then lashes out when he realizes that she speaks Polish and therefore belongs to a group Hitler has deemed undesirable. As he moves on to her, Alfred falls into the water and dies. Emilia also freezes to death on the raft, but the final chapter involves reuniting her with her family and friends in the afterlife. In a final letter that serves as an afterword, a woman named Clara Christensen writes to Florian about how, twenty years earlier, she found Emilia's body washed up on the shore at her home. She explains how she buried Emilia and hopes she is at peace. She adds that she also buried the Florian backpack, along with the yellow swan, and hopes he is at peace as well. Page 2 LitCharts assigns a color and icon to each theme in Salt to the Sea that you can use to track the themes throughout the work. Agency, Willpower, and Fate Family and Community vs. Selfishness Selfishness

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