

# Witness to History: Kent State by Deborah Wiles



## Kent State by Deborah Wiles

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3058 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 149 pages
Lending	: Enabled

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## **A Powerful and Moving Novel**

Kent State is a powerful and moving novel that tells the story of the Kent State shootings from the perspective of a young girl. The book is based on the true events that took place on May 4, 1970, when the Ohio National Guard opened fire on a group of unarmed student protesters at Kent State University. Four students were killed and nine were wounded.

The novel follows the story of 12-year-old Samantha Kiley, who witnesses the shootings firsthand. Samantha is a bright and curious girl, and she is eager to learn more about the world around her. She is also a kind and compassionate girl, and she is deeply affected by the violence that she sees.

Through Samantha's eyes, we see the events of May 4, 1970, unfold. We see the students protesting the Vietnam War, and we see the National Guardsmen responding with violence. We also see the aftermath of the shootings, as the students and the community try to come to terms with what has happened.

Kent State is a powerful reminder of the dangers of war and the importance of free speech. The book is also a tribute to the victims of the Kent State shootings and to the courage of those who stood up for their beliefs.

## **About the Author**

Deborah Wiles is the author of over 20 books for children and young adults. Her work has been praised for its honesty, its humor, and its ability to connect with readers on a personal level. Wiles is a former teacher and librarian, and she is currently a professor of English at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

## Discussion Questions

1. What are your thoughts on the events depicted in Kent State? 2. How does the novel portray the role of the media in the Kent State shootings? 3. What are the lessons that we can learn from the Kent State shootings?

## Additional Resources

\* [Kent State University May 4 Visitors Center](<https://www.kent.edu/may4>)

\* [The Kent State shootings]

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kent\\_State\\_shootings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kent_State_shootings)) \* [Deborah Wiles' website](<https://www.deborahwiles.com/>)



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