Australian Book Report

For my Australian book I read Night Train by Judith Clarke. This book is about a boy named Luke, who lives with his family in Australia. He has two younger sisters named Molly and Naomi. Luke is in high school, and he struggles with his grades and seems to be becoming depressed. He is pressured by his parents, and becomes filled with anxiety over the final exams for school. He used to be a happy, smart and loveable kid, but as he gets older, it seems like he is drifting away from the real world. His parents get worried about him, and eventually his father just pretends that Luke doesn’t even exist. He thinks that Luke is a disgrace to the family.

Throughout the book, Luke hears a train whistle. Not just an ordinary train whistle, this train runs at night. Luke becomes confused. There aren’t any trains that run at night. He tries looking for it, but he has no luck. But the weirdest thing about the train whistle is that no one else can hear it. Only Luke is able to hear the shrill whistle that occurs late, late at night. Is he going crazy? Luke doesn’t know, but he does whatever it takes to find out.

Night Train was different than a lot of books that I have read. It was written differently than what I’m used to. I thought that this book was very sad at parts, and the author did a good job of making the reader feel sorry and sad for Luke and the other characters in this story. However, I didn’t really like this book. It was very confusing to me, and too slow-paced. I think that this book would have been better if it had more exciting parts. If I had to pick my favorite part, though, I would choose the part when Luke comes home and plays paper dolls with Naomi. His little sister is just so happy to see her brother. Throughout the whole book, Naomi is asking for her “Lukie” and wanting him to be home with her all the time. I thought that it was a very heartwarming part of the story.

I would recommend this book to anyone that likes sad, slow-paced novels. If you like books filled with action, then this isn’t the book for you. I was disappointed when the author didn’t really mention what living in Australia was like in this book. I was kind of hoping for a little bit of an idea of what this continent is like, but it wasn’t talked about very much. Even though I’m not a fan of this book, I hope that you will find it interesting and that you enjoy it.