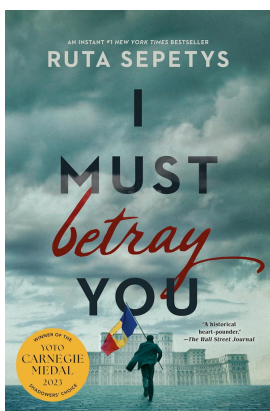


Name _____

Date _____



I Must Betray You

by Ruta Sepetys



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

A gut-wrenching, startling historical thriller about communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation – Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force. Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe. Cristian risks everything to unmask the truth behind the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country. He eagerly joins the revolution to fight for change when the time arrives. But what is the cost of freedom? Master storyteller Ruta Sepetys is back with a historical thriller that examines the little-known history of a nation defined by silence, pain, and the unwavering conviction of the human spirit.

Who Wrote It?

Ruta is the daughter of a Lithuanian refugee. Born in Michigan, she was raised in a family of artists, readers, and music lovers. She is passionate about the power of history to foster dialogue and global understanding. Her research and writing on human resilience have earned her invitations to speak at NATO, European Parliament, the U.S. Capitol, the Library of Congress, and Embassies worldwide. She has been awarded fellowships from The University of Oxford in England and The Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center in Italy. The New York Times Book Review declared, 'Ruta Sepetys acts as champion of the interstitial people so often ignored—whole populations lost in the cracks of

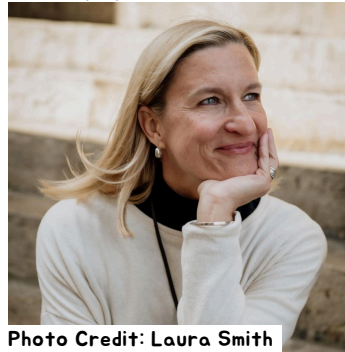


Photo Credit: Laura Smith

history. She is deeply grateful for her Baltic heritage— even if it means she has a name that no one can pronounce. Ruta lives with her family in the hills of Tennessee.

AR Reading Level: 4.3

Lexile Level: 500L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.



PREVIEW & PREDICT



Read Aloud Video

Look at the objects featured on the YouTube thumbnail and book cover and then make a few predictions.



I predict this story will be about...

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