**Great Depression, Building the Empire State Building** 1931-1991

Sky Boys, by Deborah Hopkinson, James E Ransome, 2006

Fictional characters in documented historical situations.

Author tells the story narrated in first person through the main character, a 12 year old who is unnamed. The setting of this story is in New York City at the time when people were building the Empire State Building during the Great Depression.

At the beginning of the story, the boy is sad and upset because he is looking for wood because his dad lost his job like many people because of the depression. He then sees the men starting to build the Empire State Building. He sees it as a symbol of hope. It was the beginning of a change because people finally getting jobs. He was happy because his pop got a job building the Empire State Building. At the end, the boy was happy because he went up into the Empire State Building.

The boy is curious, adventures and excited. He was excited when they were building the Empire State Building even though his pop lost his job. He was curious to see if the Empire State Building is going to be finished in time like the builders told. He learns even in the worst of times something good can happen (the theme of the story). He learns this because even in the Great Depression they built the Empire State Building.

The story would have been differently from the dad's point of view. It would be different because the dad would be depressed and sad because he lost his job. He probably would have told about the desperate times. He would explain the hard time about him needing a job to support his family. He would talk about how he saved money to take his son to the Empire State Building.

The author uses the kid interactions to help readers understand the desperate times of the Great Depression. He shows how many people had a job working in the Empire State Building and many people did not. He also explains how millions of people waited in lines to get a job. He uses the interactions to explain how exciting it was to be working on the Empire State Building at that time. The tallest building in the world.

The following are facts from the story we believe are part of history:

1. Great Depression was when many people lost their jobs.
2. The Empire State Building was built during the 1931 Great Depression.

The following are facts from the author's note we believe are part of history:

1. The Empire State Building itself is 1,250 feet high with a total height of 1,454 feet if you add the 204 feet tall television antenna made in 1950. When it was build it was the tallest building in the world
2. People who were working to building the Empire State Building were called sky boys because they are like spiders working in the sky.