Author visit Nicola Pierce by Kevin Mullarkey

On Wednesday, the 8th of November, my school was visited by historical fiction author Nichola Pierce.

When she came into talk to us, most of the class were unfamiliar with the interesting novel writer, but I remember her talking to my class in 6th class Ballyroan Boys National school about her novel on the most famous and well-known boat in history, the Titanic.

When she came in, I could tell that it was going to be interesting by her look. Purple hair, orange scarf, leather boots with flowers on them, quite unusual but in a very interesting and creative way. So I thought that her creativity in fashion would give me an idea of her creativity in the novel she came to talk about. I was interested on what she had to say about her novel.

The first thing Ms Pierce did was introduce herself and then the name of the novel, The City of Fate. She explained what the novel was about, which was the battle of Stalingrad, a war between the Nazis and the Russian army. It is known as the turning point of WWII.

Ms Pierce told us why she decided to become a historical fiction author. Her favourite subjects in school were history and English, so she began writing historical fiction. It is a good mix of subjects.

She then explained to us how she finds a part of history to write about.

Ms Pierce showed us a picture of her study. It was pretty small, with many pictures of paintings and historical manuscripts taped on the walls and windows. The picture gave me a very strong idea of her dedication and passion to write novels.

She told us how she gets all those pages done. She sets a goal for herself, 2000 words a day. Most writers would do 500-1000 words a day, so this surprised me. This is another thing that gave me a strong idea of her dedication and passion in writing.

She then goes on about her novel, The City of Fate. There are many things that shocked me about the story of the war. One example would have been that Hitler only stabbed Stalin in the back because he wanted to show his power over every country in Europe.

Other examples include the citizens of Stalingrad not being allowed to leave during the war and that the soldiers were not geared up properly in terms of clothing. This shocked me very much.

We were told about Stalin and his family. Stalin had two wives. He had one child with his second with his first wife and had two children. He had a son and daughter with his second wife. He adored his daughter until she got older when he tried to blank her out of his life. His son was completely ignored during his childhood and adulthood and became an alcoholic.

This was shocking to hear, but what he did to his son that he had with his first wife as truly horrifically gut-wrenching.

His son went to war to impress his father but was captured by the Nazis. Stalin was given a dial, he would get his son back and surrender or he would not get his son back and keep fighting. He chose to forget his son and left him to die because of his position in the army. This illustrates what a heartless and truly shocking man Stalin was.

We were shown pictures of Stalingrad before and after the war. There was a horrific difference between the two. The picture was truly powerful because everything was in ruins except a statue of children dancing around an alligator. This is powerful because I picture the statue as the people of Stalingrad not falling down after everything that happened.

Unfortunately we were cut short in time due to school ending, but it was a truly interesting experience with Ms Pierce.

I would like to give thanks to Nicola Pierce for giving us an interesting and shocking story of the battle of Stalingrad. I would love read this book in my spear time because I like historical fiction and Ms Pierce’s visit got me interested in it. I would recommend you to read it. I hope to see Nicola Pierce with a new novel in the near future