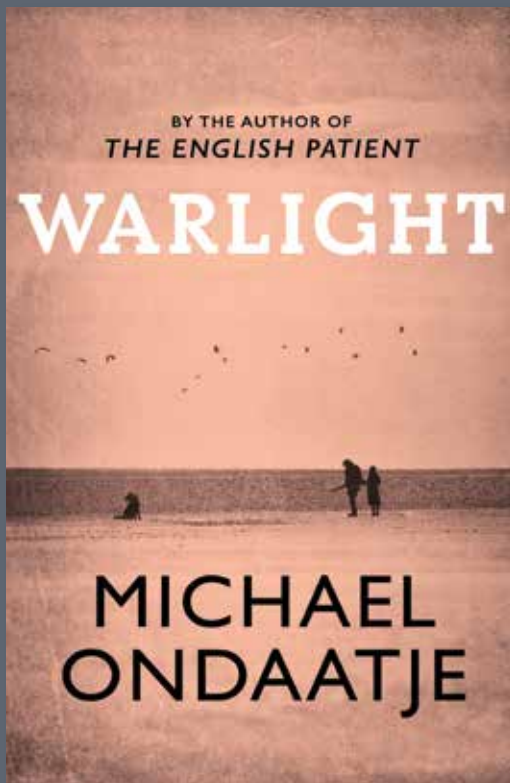




Readers' Guide



Other novels by Michael Ondaatje
The Cat's Table (2011)
Divisadero (2007)
Anil's Ghost (2000)
The English Patient (1992)
In the Skin of a Lion (1987)
Coming Through Slaughter (1976)

Warlight Michael Ondaatje

Jonathan Cape

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About the author	Michael Ondaatje is the author of several novels, as well as a memoir, a nonfiction book on film, and several books of poetry. Among his many Canadian and international recognitions, his novel <i>The English Patient</i> won the Booker Prize, and was adapted into a multi-award winning Oscar movie; and <i>Anil's Ghost</i> won the Giller Prize, the Irish Times International Fiction Prize, and the Prix Médicis. Born in Sri Lanka, Michael Ondaatje lives in Toronto.
About the book	It is 1945, and London is still reeling from the Blitz and years of war. 14-year-old Nathaniel and his sister, Rachel, are apparently abandoned by their parents, left in the care of an enigmatic figure named The Moth. They suspect he might be a criminal, and grow both more convinced and less concerned as they get to know his eccentric crew of friends: men and women with a shared history, all of whom seem determined now to protect, and educate (in rather unusual ways) Rachel and Nathaniel. But are they really what and who they claim to be? A dozen years later, Nathaniel begins to uncover all he didn't know or understand in that time, and it is this journey – through reality, recollection, and imagination – that is told in this magnificent novel.
What the judges thought	“Wonderfully atmospheric, beautifully paced, subtle storytelling. Warlight contains an incredible array of characters through whom Ondaatje tells the hidden, barely spoken, tale of war, especially as it impacts on children. Ondaatje skilfully moves back and forth through time, finally offering an extraordinary narrative twist that feels as earned as it is unexpected.”
Discussion points	<p>Do you think the setting of the book in post-war London has a particular effect? Would it be different if it were set in a different time or place?</p> <p>What impact does Nathaniel and Rose's abandonment by their parents at such a young age have on them?</p> <p>If you've read any of Ondaatje's other novels, how does this compare? Are there any similar themes or characters?</p>
Themed reading	<p>Helen Dunmore <i>Exposure</i></p> <p>Ben Fergusson <i>The Spring of Kasper Meier</i></p> <p>Sarah Waters <i>The Night Watch</i></p> <p>Kate Quinn <i>The Alice Network</i></p>
Useful links	<p>https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/jun/05/warlight-michael-ondaatje-review</p> <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/warlight-is-a-quiet-new-masterpiece-from-michael-ondaatje/2018/05/04/82b0fbe8-4fbd-11e8-84a0-458a1aa9ac0a_story.html?utm_term=.4887f09be554</p> <p>https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/books/warlight-by-michael-ondaatje-review-forsaken-children-in-wartorn-london-a3847706.html</p>