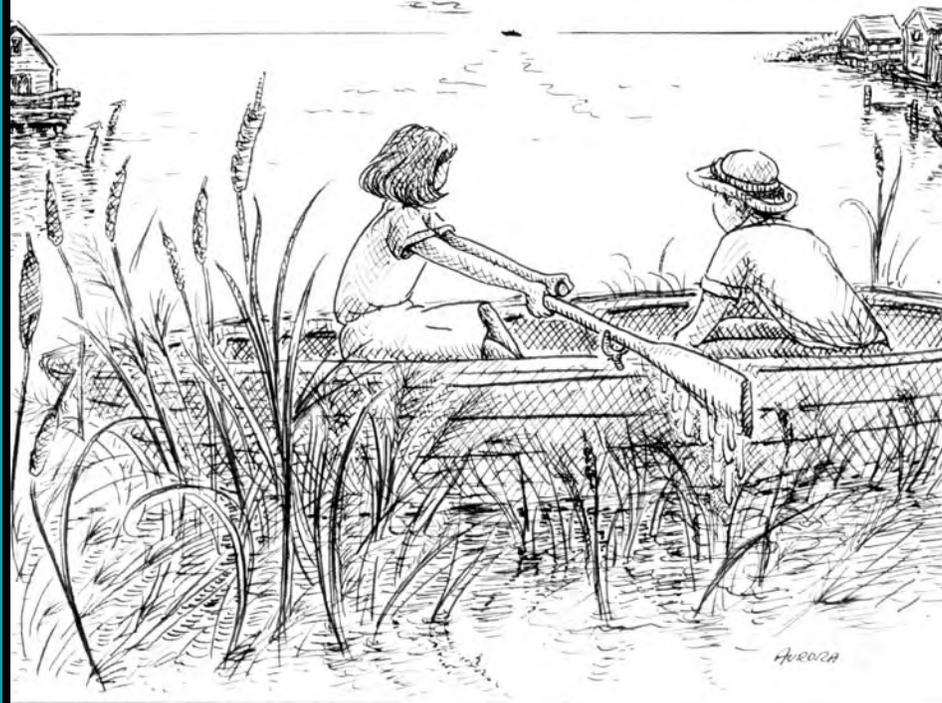


Novel·Ties

Lily's Crossing

Patricia Reilly Giff



A Study Guide

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *Lily's Crossing* consists of lessons for guided reading. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its own reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

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SYNOPSIS

Since her mother's death, Lily Mollahan has been living in St. Albans, New York, with her father and her grandmother. They spend summers in the Atlantic seashore town of Rockaway.

As she looks forward to the summer of 1944, Lily thinks about fishing and going to the movies with her father and her best friend, Margaret. But World War II is in progress, and Margaret's family must move to Detroit. Lily's father will enlist in the Army Corps of Engineers to help rebuild areas of war-torn Europe as the war comes to an end. Lily's sadness about her father's impending departure turns to anger. She allows him to leave without saying goodbye, which causes her to feel guilty until his return.

With her summer plans ruined, Lily turns her attention to solving her personal problems—the most pressing of which is telling lies. She also becomes intrigued by a new boy in Rockaway, a Hungarian refugee named Albert, who has come to spend the summer with his uncle and aunt, the Orbans. Brought to America after his parents were killed for publishing an anti-Nazi newspaper, Albert now fears for the safety of his grandmother, who is still in Hungary, and for his little sister Ruth who contracted measles and had to stay behind in German-occupied France.

Lily and Albert begin to form a friendship after they save a stray kitten from drowning. Albert names the kitten Paprika and agrees to let it stay in Margaret's empty house, which Lily has made her summer hideout.

Despite her good intentions not to lie, Lily tries to impress her new friend by telling him that she plans to swim out to a troop ship, climb aboard, and sail to Europe to find her father. Lily soon regrets this lie, especially when Albert seizes on the plan as a way for him to find Ruth.

As days pass, the friendship between Lily and Albert grows. They soon share their fears, their secrets, and their wishes. Lily begins to think that Albert has forgotten about her plan to go to Europe. But when he and Lily row out to search for troop ships, Albert commands her to teach him how to swim so that he can accompany her to Europe. Lily is dismayed, but is still unable to tell Albert the truth.

Lily receives letters from her father, whom she calls Poppy, and Margaret. Poppy writes that he is finally on his way to Europe and that he misses her. Lily is puzzled when he mentions several books she should read—the *Madeline* book, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Roland*, *The Three Musketeers*, and a book called *The Promise* which she is unable to locate. Margaret's letter contains the distressing news that her brother has been missing in action since D-Day.

After Lily teaches Albert how to swim, he excitedly informs her that he is ready to go to Europe. Lily is finally forced to tell him that she lied. Albert explains that he, too, lied when he pretended to be asleep as Ruth was taken to the hospital in France. He did this because he was afraid to stay in Europe with her. It is his guilt that makes him determined to find her.

Believing she has convinced Albert that it is too dangerous to swim to a troop ship anchored nearby, Lily is shocked to sight him rowing on a stormy night. She jumps into her boat and reaches Albert just as a large wave tosses him into the water. After a few terrifying moments, Lily manages to get Albert into her boat and safely ashore. They go to Lily's house where Gram comforts them with dry clothes, hot tea, and kind words.

That same evening, Lily remembers that she left one of the books Poppy recommended in her boat. When Albert informs her that the book is about the French Revolution, Lily realizes that all of the books in Poppy's letters have something to do with France. He has kept his promise to her by letting her know he is in France without alerting the censors. This news is especially exciting because there is hope that he can find Ruth.

With the summer coming to an end, Albert returns to Canada and Lily goes back to school in St. Albans. Several months later, Poppy returns home safely with the welcome news that he has seen Ruth and she is well.

After a long winter, Lily's family again makes the trip to Rockaway. Not looking forward to a summer without Albert, Lily fondly thinks about the special friendship they shared. When the Orbans invite her for dinner, she quickly rushes over to hear news about Albert. Lily is overjoyed when she finds Albert and his sister Ruth there waiting for her.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

World War II

The War Abroad

World War II was one of the largest and bloodiest conflicts in history. It began in 1939 and lasted until 1945, involving more than 60 million soldiers from 40 countries. On one side were the Allies made up of Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States. On the other side were the Axis powers made up of Germany, Japan, and Italy.

Partly responsible for the war were the humiliating peace treaties forced on Germany after World War I. Adolph Hitler became an important figure in the early 1930s during a time when poverty and unemployment were plaguing Germany. This made conditions ripe for his National Socialist German Worker's Party—the Nazi Party—to rise to power. Promising to make Germany strong again, Hitler used the Jewish people as scapegoats for all of Germany's problems. After becoming the absolute dictator of Germany on February 28, 1933, not only was he free to persecute the Jews and other minorities, but he also began a campaign to conquer neighboring countries.

Other nations watched the German army invade Austria and Czechoslovakia but did nothing to stop them. However, when Hitler invaded Poland in August 1939, France and Britain immediately declared war on Germany. This was the beginning of World War II.

In the early 1940s, the war raged on. Germany conquered France in 1940. In 1941, Germany invaded the Soviet Union, bringing that nation into the war. On December 7 of that same year, Japan attacked the United States fleet at Pearl Harbor in the Pacific Ocean. The United States now joined the Allies in their fight against the Axis powers. In 1943, the Allied invasion of Italy forced that country to surrender and join the Allies.

The final Allied campaign began on June 6, 1944. On that day, known as D-Day, the Allies launched the Normandy invasion on the beaches of northern France. In August, a second force landed in southern France. By late 1944, Belgium and France were liberated, and the war had been carried into Germany. In February 1945, after many bloody battles, Allied victory seemed certain. In April 1945, after Hitler had killed himself, German resistance had collapsed. Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945. Japan surrendered a few months later, thereby bringing an end to the costliest war in history.

The Homefront

During World War II, the life of Americans at home was transformed by necessary sacrifices. Between 1941 and 1945, six and a half million women entered the labor force to take the place of men sent to the battlefield. This was a hardship for many women who suddenly found themselves holding down jobs while caring for their families.

Many families tended Victory Gardens in order to have a homegrown supply of fruits and vegetables while American troops would receive produce from commercial farmers. By 1942, one-third of the homefront supply of vegetables came from the Victory Gardens. This food source helped make up for shortages of other foods caused by food rationing.

Rationing meant that Americans could only receive a limited supply of certain foods and other items. There were a total of twenty rationed items, including sugar, butter, coffee, rubber, nylon, and gasoline. These rationed items were considered necessary for the continued war effort. Gasoline was reduced to three gallons per week for most drivers. Shortages such as this were a fact of life during the war.

Another fact of life accepted by Americans after Pearl Harbor was that the United States could be successfully attacked. This fear united Americans in protecting their mainland. They were careful to watch for spies, aircraft, and vessels along coastal waters. If enemy aircraft were spotted, civil defense teams were ready to enforce blackouts. During a blackout, all lights were put out or covered up as a protection against an air raid.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Preview the book by looking at the title, the author's name, and the cover illustration. What do you think the book will be about? Where and when do you think it takes place? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. **Social Studies Connection:** What do you know about World War II? What would you like to find out? Brainstorm with a small group of your classmates to fill in a K-W-L chart, such as the one below. Read the Background Information on page three of this study guide and jot down what you already know in the first column. List your questions in the second column. When you finish the book, record what you learned in the third column.

World War II		
What I Know -K-	What I Want to Know -W-	What I Learned -L-

3. Have you read any other books set in the United States during World War II? If so, exactly when and where were these stories set? What did you learn about life at that time?
4. Most of the action in this novel takes place in Rockaway Beach, New York. Do some research to find out about Rockaway Beach. Where is it located? What interesting things are there to do and see? What does the shore area look like? Obtain a map and use it to locate places mentioned in the novel as you read. You might find this information in your library or on the Internet.
5. **Cooperative Learning Activity:** Work with a small cooperative learning group to list and discuss the qualities you look for in a friend. As you read the novel, see how well Lily and Albert measure up to these qualities.
6. Why do people tell lies? What kinds of trouble can lies cause? Is it ever all right to lie?
7. The main character in this novel makes a list of her problems. What five items would you put on your personal problem list? As you read the book, compare your problems with those of Lily or Albert.
8. **Social Studies Connection:** One of the characters in the novel escapes from war-torn Hungary. He travels through Austria and Switzerland, and goes across the mountains into France. From there, he sails to Canada, leaving his family behind. As you read, trace his journey on a map of the world.

Pre-Reading Activities (cont.)

9. As you read *Lily's Crossing*, compare Lily's childhood in 1944 to your own, using the chart below.

	Lily - 1944	You - Present
Recreation		
Home Life		
Music		

CHAPTERS 1 – 4

Vocabulary: Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. invasion | a. strings of beads used for counting prayers |
| 2. rosaries | b. splitting |
| 3. disgrace | c. attack in order to conquer |
| 4. duration | d. large beam to support a bridge or dock |
| 5. wrenching | e. deep humming sound |
| 6. drone | f. something that causes shame |
| 7. throttle | g. length of time |
| 8. piling | h. choke or strangle |

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1. During the tornado, she heard the _____ sound of the roof being torn from the house.
2. "There will be no talking for the _____ of the test," warned the teacher.
3. The Catholic school children carried _____ in their pockets so they would have them handy when the class recited their prayers.
4. The _____ on the far side of the dock was damaged during the hurricane.
5. Living conditions in which walls are crumbling and rats terrorize tenants are a(n) _____ to our city.
6. Being denied entrance to the party, the intruder threatened to _____ the security guard.
7. The United States Armed Forces protects Americans against _____ by other countries.
8. The children fell asleep to the low, comforting _____ of the air conditioner.

Chapters 1 – 4 (cont.)

Read to learn why Lily's summer would be different this year.

Questions:

1. Why was Lily scraping something off her walls and ceiling?
2. Why was Lily looking forward to her summer in Rockaway?
3. What story did Lily invent about Mr. Egan? What did this suggest about her?
4. Why didn't Gram get to see Lily's report card?
5. Why was Lily disappointed when the movers were able to get the piano out the door?
6. According to Lily, what was her most important character flaw?
7. Why was Margaret leaving Rockaway? What did this mean for Lily?
8. Why did Lily think the key to Margaret's house was "the best present" she ever had?
9. What did Lily learn when she eavesdropped from her boat at the Orbans' house?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think Lily told lies?
2. In what ways do you think the war changed the lives of Lily, her family, and their acquaintances?
3. How would you describe Lily's relationship with her father and with her grandmother?
4. Why do you think Albert has come to live with the Orbans?

Literary Element: Setting

Setting refers to the place and time in which the events in a work of fiction occur. What is the setting of this novel?

How important do you think the setting will be to this story?

Chapters 1 – 4 (cont.)

Literary Devices:

- I. *Flashback*—A flashback is a scene showing events that happened at an earlier time. Describe the brief flashback concerning Eddie in Chapter Three.

What purpose did this flashback serve?

- II. *Personification*—Personification is a literary device in which an author grants human qualities to nonhuman objects. For example:

Gram's house was the last one on the canal. "Where the ocean swoops in to fight with the bay," she always said.

What is being personified?

What does this reveal about the scene?

Social Studies Connection:

During World War II, the United States Government began rationing supplies. Do some research to find out what supplies were rationed. What was the purpose of a "Victory Garden" such as the one Gram had?

Music Connection:

One of the moving men sings the song, "They're Either Too Young or Too Old." As you continue to read, make a list of other songs mentioned in the novel. Try to find recordings of these songs and other songs popular during World War II. Share them with the class.

Writing Activities:

1. Write about a real or imagined place where you would enjoy spending your school vacation. Describe the place and tell what you would do there.
2. With Margaret's departure, Lily feared she would be unable to make friends. Write about a time when you or someone you know had trouble making friends.

CHAPTERS 5 – 9

Vocabulary: Analogies are equations in which the first pair of words has the same relationship as the second pair of words. For example: HAPPY is to SAD as EMPTY is to FULL. Both pairs of words are opposites. Choose a word from the Word Box to complete each of the analogies below.

<i>WORD BOX</i>		
censors	perspiration	trestle
insignia	spewing	viaduct

1. BLANKET is to COVER as _____ is to SUPPORT.
2. LYING is to FIBBING as SPURTING is to _____.
3. BRIDGE is to _____ as VEHICLE is to CAR.
4. _____ is to SWEAT as ARGUMENT is to DISAGREEMENT.
5. CHEF is to COOK as _____ is to EDIT.
6. BUSH is to SHRUB as EMBLEM is to _____.

Read to find out why Lily let her father leave without saying goodbye.

Questions:

1. Why did Poppy want Lily to row the long way home?
2. Why did Lily fail to say goodbye to her father when he left?
3. Why did Lily suspect that Albert was a Nazi spy?
4. How did Albert react to the trainer plane that flew over the beach?
5. Why did Lily dread going to the Orbans' house for dinner?
6. How did Lily break her vow not to tell lies?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think Lily's reaction to her father's news was justified?
2. Do you think that Gram belonged on Lily's problem list?
3. Why might Albert have been afraid of the airplane?

Chapters 5 – 9 (cont.)

4. Do you think that Albert and Lily will ever be friends?
5. Why do you think that Lily was now telling more lies instead of fewer as she had vowed?

Literary Devices:

- I. *Simile*—A simile is a figure of speech in which a comparison between two unlike objects is stated directly using the words “like” or “as.” For example:

The days stretched out in front of her like long gray sheets on a wash line.

What is being compared?

In what way does the simile help express Lily’s feelings?

- II. *Cliffhanger*—A cliffhanger in literature is a device borrowed from serialized silent films in which an episode ends at a moment of heightened tension. In a book it is usually placed at the end of a chapter to encourage the reader to continue on in the book. What is the cliffhanger at the end of Chapter Nine?

Social Studies Connection:

Gram and Lily like to listen to shows on the radio. Find out more about radio programs in the 1940s. What kinds of shows were on the air? How were these shows like the television shows you watch today? How were they different? What part did radio play in the war effort? If possible, find some recordings of old radio shows, such as *Portia Faces Life*, and share them with your class.

Writing Activities:

1. Tell about a time when your anger caused you to do something that you later regretted.
2. Lily wrote a letter of apology to her father, but we don’t know what she said in it. Write that letter.
3. Imagine that you are Albert. Finish the letter that you were writing to your uncle and aunt in Canada. In the letter, tell about your impressions of Lily.

Chapters 5 – 9 (cont.)**Literary Element: Characterization**

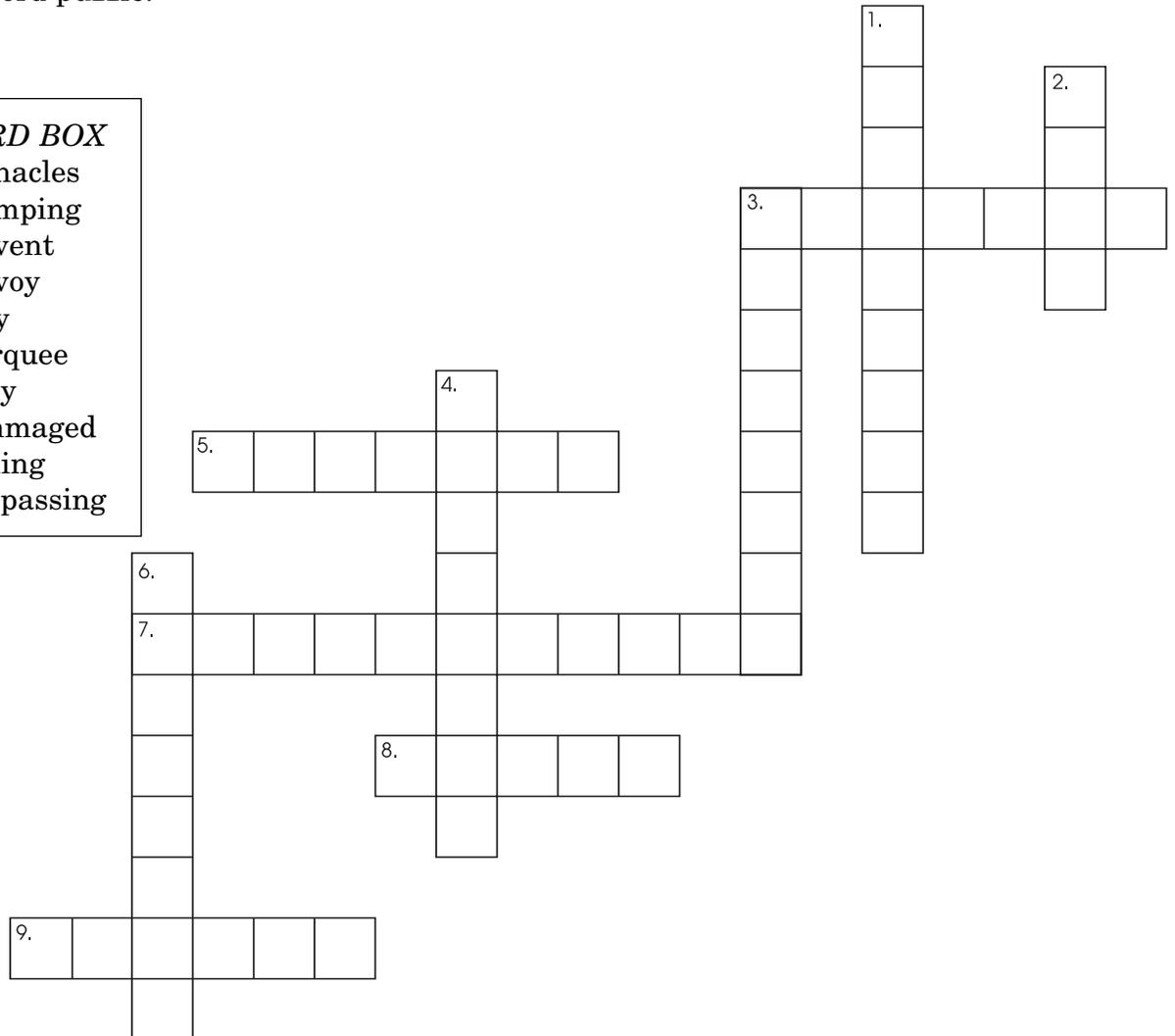
Characters in literature are revealed by what they say and do and by what others say about them. On the chart below fill in information you have learned about some of the characters in the story. Continue to fill in the chart as you read the book.

Character	What You Have Learned
Lily	
Gram	
Poppy	
Albert	

CHAPTERS 10 – 13

Vocabulary: Use the words in the Word Box and the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.

WORD BOX
 barnacles
 chomping
 convent
 convoy
 jetty
 marquee
 puny
 rummaged
 stifling
 trespassing

**Across**

3. building in which nuns live
5. rooflike structure above a theater entrance
7. going on somebody's property without any right
8. pier
9. group of military vehicles or ships traveling together

Down

1. marine animals that attach themselves to surfaces
2. weak
3. munching
4. searched thoroughly
6. suffocating; smothering

Chapters 10 – 13 (cont.)

Read to find out why Albert came to America.

Questions:

1. Why did Lily take Albert to Margaret's house?
2. Why didn't Margaret like living in Willow Run?
3. Why was Lily disappointed when Albert said, "I will feed the cat myself"?
4. In what way did Lily's attempt to save Albert backfire?
5. What did Lily consider "the worst lie she had ever told"?
6. Why did the movie upset Albert?
7. Why had Albert come to America without his family?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think that Lily lied to Albert?
2. In your opinion, why did Albert accept each of Lily's challenges?
3. Why do you think Lily told Albert about the stars?
4. Do you think Albert's anger toward his family was justified?
5. How did Albert help Lily feel less sorry for herself?

Literary Device: Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are compared. The comparison can be implied or it can be stated directly. For example:

A little [cream] stayed on his lower lip, a small yellow fish.

What is being compared?

In what way does this comparison help you visualize the scene?

Chapters 10 – 13 (cont.)

Social Studies Connections:

1. Lily talked about different kinds of ships—cutters, freighters, destroyers, carriers, and tankers. In the library, try to locate photos of these ships as they would have looked during World War II. Display them in your classroom.
2. The author referred to war propaganda posters that pointed up fears on the homefront about sabotage and spying. Do some research to find photographs of these posters or copies of the actual posters. Display them in your classroom.

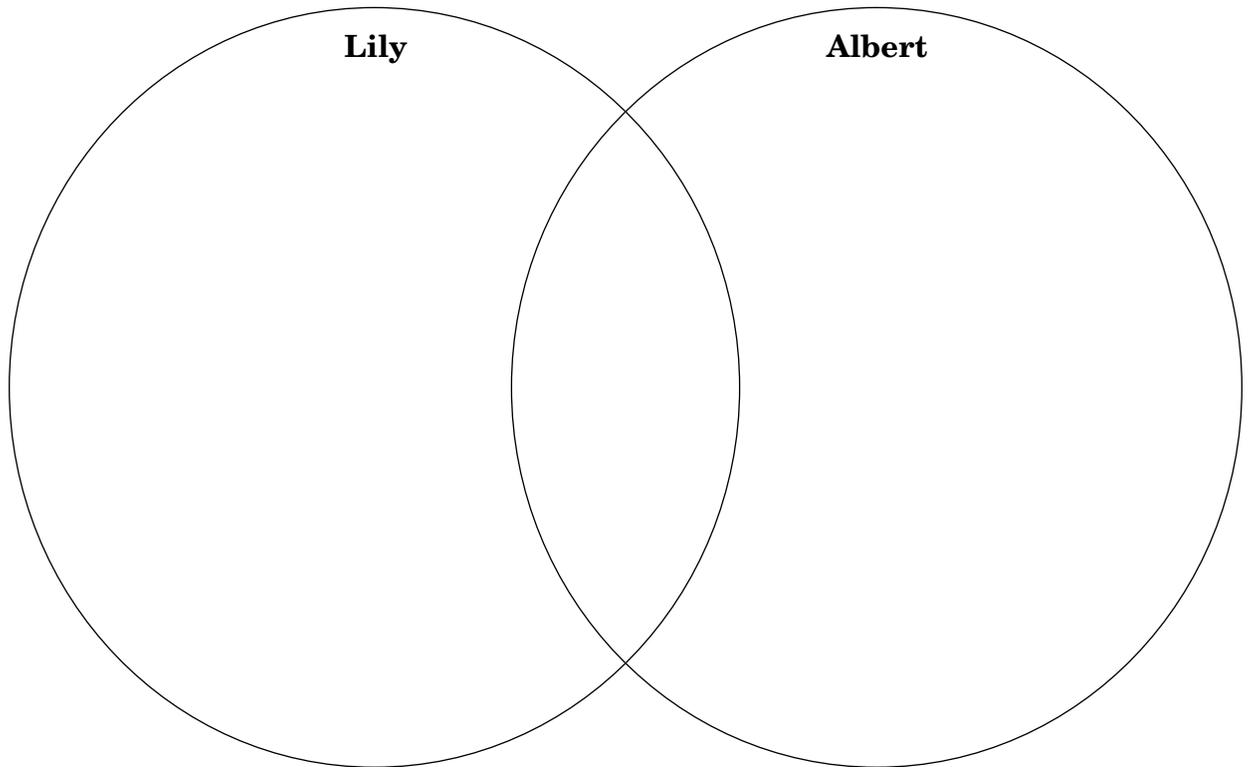
Literary Element:

- I. *Conflict*—The plot of a novel is the sequence of events that happen in the story. A conflict is a struggle between opposing forces. An external conflict is a character's struggle against an outside force, such as nature, fate, or another person. An internal conflict is a personal struggle that takes place within a character's mind. In the chart below, list the conflicts that have occurred in the story so far. Indicate how some of these problems have been resolved. As you continue the story, add to the chart.

External Conflicts	Resolutions
Internal Conflicts	Resolutions

Chapters 10 – 13 (cont.)

- II. *Characterization*—In the Venn diagram below, compare the backgrounds and personality traits of Lily and Albert. Write about the characteristics they have in common in the overlapping part of the circles. Add information as you continue to read the book.

**Writing Activities:**

1. Write about a time when you experienced an internal conflict. What caused the conflict? What problems did it create? How was it resolved?
2. Imagine you are Lily or Albert and write a journal entry expressing your thoughts and feelings after the day you spent together.

CHAPTERS 14 – 18

Vocabulary: Use the context to determine the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Then compare your definition with a dictionary definition.

1. The dazed victim could only vaguely describe his attacker.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

2. All eyes were on the new minister as he preached to his parish.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

3. Unable to care for her own nails, Sarah often gets a manicure.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

4. As the sun set in the West, shades of orange and pink tinged the blue sky.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

5. The revolving turrets on the deck of the warship each contained two mounted guns.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

6. The woman prepared for Mass by opening her missal to the page indicated by the priest.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

7. As she entered the church, the girl spied her friends sitting in the first pew.

Your definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

Read to find out how Lily's lie put Albert in danger.

Questions:

1. Why did Albert want Lily to teach him how to swim?
2. Why did Lily value Albert's friendship?

Chapters 14 – 18 (cont.)

3. How did Margaret's request cause a problem for Lily?
4. How did Albert try to help Lily solve her problem?
5. Why did Lily hate practicing the piano? What did this suggest about her?
6. Why did Albert's money remind her of the stars her mother had put on her ceiling?
7. How have Lily's lies put Albert at risk?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why didn't Lily confess her lie about swimming the Atlantic to Albert?
2. Why do you think Lily seemed to resent her grandmother?
3. Why do you think Albert offered Lily the money she needed?
4. Why do you think Poppy mentioned the *Madeline* book in his letter?

Literary Device: Metaphor

What is being compared in the following metaphor?

It was a desert in that church.

What does this tell you about the atmosphere in the church?

Science Connection:

In the night sky, Lily saw Orion's Belt and Cassiopeia. Do some research to learn more about these constellations and draw diagrams of their configurations. If possible, try to locate them in the sky on a clear night.

Social Studies Connections:

1. Albert told Lily that the Danube River runs between Buda and Pest in Budapest, the capital of Hungary. Do some research to find out more about the Danube and Budapest. How and when was the present-day Budapest formed? How many people live in the area? Where is Budapest located in relation to the Danube River? How long is the river? How has the Danube River affected the city of Budapest?
2. Do some research to learn about the Allied invasion of Normandy. Who was the commanding general? What was the strategy that resulted in D-Day? Do you think that the tremendous loss of lives was necessary for the success of the plan?

Chapters 14 – 18 (cont.)

Writing Activities:

1. Pretend that you write an advice column in the newspaper. Lily writes you a letter telling you about the lie she told Albert and how she fears it will get him into trouble. Write a brief column telling Lily what she should do.
2. Lily seems to be in constant conflict with Gram. Tell about a time when you came into conflict with an adult in your life. How did you handle the situation? Looking back on it, what might you have done differently to handle the situation better?

CHAPTERS 19 – 22

Vocabulary: Synonyms are words with similar meanings. Draw a line from each word in column A to its synonym in column B. Then use the words in column A to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
1. liberate	a. quiver
2. irritable	b. shifted
3. unclench	c. agreement
4. scrawl	d. free
5. veered	e. cranky
6. vibration	f. open
7. pact	g. scribble

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- The driver _____ to the left to avoid hitting the rabbit.
- The baby became _____ after missing his nap.
- Let's make a(n) _____ to be friends forever.
- The patient had difficulty reading the doctor's _____.
- The dentist couldn't persuade the nervous patient to _____ his teeth.
- The Allies were able to _____ the prisoners of war after their victory.
- The subway that runs under the street shakes the apartment so much that we feel the _____.

Read to find out whether Lily confesses that she lied to Albert.

Questions:

- Why did Lily conclude that things would never be the same after the war?
- Why did Lily decide that she should no longer spend time in Margaret's house?
- Why did Lily have a hard time teaching Albert how to swim?
- What discoveries did Lily make about Gram after reading Margaret's letter?
- Why did Lily have mixed emotions about teaching Albert to swim?

Chapters 19 – 22 (cont.)

6. Why did Lily cry when she confessed to Albert about lying?
7. Why did Albert feel guilty that Ruth was left in Europe?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think that Lily's discoveries about Gram will cause her to treat Gram in a different way?
2. Do you think Lily should have been aware of her grandmother's sadness before she read Margaret's letter, or was she typical of someone her age?
3. Do you think that Albert's "lie" can be compared to Lily's lies?
4. In Albert's place, would you have closed your eyes when the nuns came? Do you think he should feel guilty about leaving Ruth behind in France?
5. Why do you think that Lily's father told her to read a book called *The Promise* when there was no book by that title?

Literary Device: Cliffhanger

What is the cliffhanger at the end of Chapter Twenty-two?

Literary Element: Characterization

Add additional information to the Venn diagram comparing Lily and Albert that you began on page sixteen of this study guide. What additional qualities have you found that they have in common?

Writing Activities:

1. Write about a real or imaginary time when you faced danger in order to pursue a goal.
2. Write about a time when you harbored feelings of guilt. Describe your feelings and the event that caused you to feel that way. Indicate whether your feelings of guilt were justified. Do you still feel guilty?

CHAPTERS 23 – 28

Vocabulary: Use a word from the Word Box to replace each underlined word or phrase in the sentences below. Write the word on the line below the sentence.

WORD BOX			
anthem	jutted	poised	smuggled
cathedral	persuaded	prickling	trough

- The boat was hidden from my view as it slid into the long, narrow depression between the waves.

- Americans sing the national song of patriotism before each sporting event.

- The diver lingered over the edge of the platform before leaping into the pool.

- The worshippers entered the large, important church.

- The parents convinced the little boy to behave himself in the store.

- The spy secretly transported the stolen plans out of the country.

- As she entered the dark, empty house, Marcia's skin was feeling a tingling sensation.

- Traffic was delayed due to the fallen boulder that had projected far out onto the road.

Read to find out what happens to Lily and Albert once the war ends.

Questions:

- How did Lily rescue Albert?
- How did Gram explain their parents' sacrifices to Lily and Albert?
- How did Gram show her love and concern for Albert?
- Why hadn't Lily's father revealed his location in his letters home? How did Lily conclude that her father was in France?
- How were Lily and Albert affected by the liberation of Paris?

Chapters 23 – 28 (cont.)

6. How did Poppy remove Lily's guilt about not saying goodbye?
7. Why did Lily have mixed feelings about returning to Rockaway the summer of 1945?
8. Why did Lily vow not to tell lies anymore?
9. What was the "something lovely" that Gram referred to when she said, "Even in the worst times, something lovely happens"?

Questions for Discussion:

1. What character traits did Lily possess that allowed her to make a daring rescue?
2. Why do you think that Albert needed the "dream" of going to Europe to find Ruth?
3. When did you realize that Poppy's book recommendation described his whereabouts?
4. Why does Lily peel off one of her mother's stars to give to Albert?
5. Do you agree with Poppy that saying goodbye to someone you love doesn't matter?
6. Have you ever had a friendship that was as significant as that between Lily and Albert? Do you agree with Sister Benedicta that Lily was lucky to have such a deep, though short-lived, friendship?
7. At the end of the novel, why do you think that Lily was able to put her arms around Gram and say that she loved her?

Social Studies Connections:

1. Obtain a map of France as Lily did and trace the Allies' route from Cherbourg to Caen, to Rouen, to Paris.
2. Locate photographs of the following: the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Champs Elysées, the tricolor flag of France.

Literary Element: Theme

Theme refers to the author's message or central idea in a work of fiction. Compile a list of important themes in *Lily's Crossing*. Consider what the author was saying about such topics as friendship, family, honesty and dishonesty, guilt, and separation and loss.

Writing Activities:

1. For Sister Benedicta, Lily wrote a journal entry telling Albert about the day that they said goodbye. Write this journal entry.
2. Tell about a friendship that has made a great difference in your life.

CLOZE ACTIVITY

The following passage has been taken from Chapter Twenty-three of the novel. Read it through completely and then fill in each blank with a word that makes sense. Afterwards you may compare your language with that of the author.

Then, as the wave slid out from under the boat, she could see the forward part rising, almost straight up. Lily watched _____,¹ breathless, as it slid back, and in _____² second, Albert was tossed into the sea.

_____³ could see the orange life jacket a _____⁴ longer, but after only seconds a wave _____⁵ her boat in one direction and Albert _____⁶ another and he disappeared.

She kept calling, _____⁷ trying to turn the boat in circles, _____⁸ at the lights on the boardwalk to _____⁹ her place, watching for the streaks of _____¹⁰ to show her where he was.

She _____¹¹ away from his empty boat, which was _____¹² first high on a wave, then into _____¹³ crest. In another flash, she saw him _____¹⁴, just the quickest glimpse, the orange life _____¹⁵, and his dark head above the water.

“_____¹⁶ here,” she yelled, not sure he had _____¹⁷ her, or even seen her, and then _____¹⁸ wave came, a mountain of a swell _____¹⁹ moved toward them, pushing Albert toward her. _____²⁰ could see him turning toward her, his _____²¹ open. He was gulping water, and she _____²² out, and by some miracle, her hand _____²³ around the top of the jacket. She _____²⁴ it, feeling her nails rip, but knowing _____²⁵ wouldn't let go, even if she was _____²⁶ out of the boat.

But the wave was past them now, and the water grew calm just for the second he needed to grip the boat, and she pulled at his jacket with both hands until he tumbled into the boat.

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Return to the K-W-L chart that you began in the Pre-Reading Activities on page five of this study guide. Make any necessary corrections in column one. Fill in column three. Compare your responses with those of your classmates.
2. Return to the chart comparing your childhood to Lily's that you began on page six of this study guide. Add additional information and compare your responses with those of your classmates.
3. Return to the Character Chart that you began on page twelve of this study guide. Add more information and compare what you have written to the responses of others in your class who have read the same book.
4. Return to the Conflict Chart that you began on page fifteen of this study guide. Add any other conflicts that you may have found in the book. By the end of the book, were all of the conflicts resolved?
5. Why do you think the book was titled *Lily's Crossing*? Suppose you had to choose a new title for this novel. What title would you choose and why?
6. Read the letter to the reader written by the author on the last page of the novel. In it Patricia Reilly Giff says, "I want readers to know that love and friendship make a difference." In what ways did love and friendship make a difference in Lily's life? Have love and friendship made a difference in your life?
7. **Cooperative Learning Activity:** Gram and Lily listen to "Portia Faces Life" on the radio. Work with a group of your classmates to dramatize one episode of a radio show entitled "Lily Faces Life." Work on a radio script and assign roles. Perform your show for the entire class.
8. Write a short sequel to *Lily's Crossing*, telling what happens to the main characters.
9. **Art Connection:** Mrs. Sherman has two posters in her shop. The first reads, "Loose Lips Sink Ships." The other reads, "Someone Talked." Design a poster using one of these slogans.
10. Lily has a vivid imagination. She also tells lies. What is the difference between lying and imagining? List all the lies that Lily tells. How does one lie lead to another? At what point in the novel does she finally stop lying?

Post-Reading Activities (cont.)

11. With an adult's help, you might wish to try this recipe for Hungarian goulash, a hearty soup.

Hungarian Goulash

What you need:

1 pound beef hind rump or round roast	1 teaspoon caraway seeds
1 pound beef chuck	2 tablespoons tomato paste
3 tablespoons vegetable oil	1 cup beef broth
1/2 cup finely chopped onion	4 medium potatoes
1 tablespoon paprika	8 cups water
1 teaspoon salt	1 medium green pepper, seeded and cut into strips

What you do:

1. Cut meat into 1-inch cubes.
2. In a kettle or Dutch oven, heat oil over medium heat for 1 minute. Add onions and sauté until transparent.
3. Add paprika, beef cubes, salt, and caraway seeds. Cook for about 10 minutes, stirring frequently.
4. In a small bowl, stir tomato paste into 1/2 cup beef broth. Add to beef mixture and stir. Simmer for 30 minutes.
5. Peel potatoes and cut into bite-size pieces.
6. Add potatoes, remaining beef broth, and 8 cups of water to kettle. Bring to a boil and simmer for 15 minutes.
7. Return soup to a boil, add pepper strips, and cook for 10 more minutes.

Serves 4 to 6

12. **Literature Circle:** Have a literature circle discussion in which you tell your personal reactions to *Lily's Crossing*. Here are some questions and sentence starters to help your literature circle begin a discussion.
- How are you like Lily or Albert? How are you different?
 - Do you find the characters in the novel realistic? Why or why not?
 - Which character did you like the most? The least?
 - Who else would you like to read this novel? Why?
 - What did you learn about life on the homefront during World War II that you did not already know?
 - What questions would you like to ask the author about this novel?
 - It was not fair when . . .
 - I would have liked to see . . .
 - I wonder . . .
 - Lily learned that . . .

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

- Blume, Judy. *Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself*. Random House.
- Chaikin, Miriam. *Friends Forever*. HarperCollins.
- Fox, Paula. *Western Wind*. Random House.
- Green, Connie Jordan. *The War at Home*. Simon & Schuster.
- * Greene, Bette. *Summer of My German Soldier*. Random House.
- * Levitin, Sonia. *Journey to America*. Simon & Schuster.
- _____. *Silver Days*. Simon & Schuster.
- * Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. Random House.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. *Journey*. Random House.
- Seredy, Kate. *The Good Master*. Penguin.
- Shemin, Margaretha. *The Little Riders*. Putnam.
- Siegal, Aranka. *Upon the Head of the Goat: A Childhood in Hungary*. Penguin.
- Smith, Doris Buchanan. *Salted Lemons*. Simon & Schuster.
- Stoltz, Mary. *The Noonday Friends*. HarperCollins.
- * Voigt, Cynthia. *Dacey's Song*. Simon & Schuster.
- * Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic*. Penguin.

Some Other Books by Patricia Reilly Giff

- The Gift of the Pirate Queen*. Random House.
- The Girl Who Knew It All*. Random House.
- Have You Seen Hyacinth Macaw?* Random House.
- Kidnap at the Catfish Café*. Penguin.
- Left-Handed Shortstop*. Random House.
- Loretta P. Sweeny, Where Are You?* Random House.
- Love, from the Fifth-Grade Celebrity*. Random House.
- Maggie's Door*. Random House.
- * *Nory Ryan's Song*. Random House.
- * *Pictures of Hollis Woods*. Random House.
- Tootsie Tanner, Why Don't You Talk?* Random House.
- Willow Run*. Random House.
- The Winter Worm Business*. Random House.
- * NOVEL-TIES Study Guides are available for these titles.

ANSWER KEY

Chapters 1 – 4

Vocabulary: 1. c 2. a 3. f 4. g 5. b 6. e 7. h 8. d; 1. wrenching 2. duration 3. rosaries 4. piling
5. disgrace 6. throttle 7. invasion 8. drone

Questions: 1. Lily scraped her walls and ceiling to save the gold stars that were precious tokens of her deceased mother who had originally placed them there. 2. Lily was looking forward to a summer near the ocean, where she would have no homework, be able to write stories for herself and not her teacher, not have to practice the piano, and sneak into the movies with her friend Margaret. 3. Lily invented the story that Mr. Egan was a Nazi spy. This suggested that she had an active imagination. 4. At first, the movers distracted Gram from thinking about the report card; then, Lily took it and hid it in her book. 5. Lily was disappointed that the piano was moved out the door because its destination was Rockaway. Now Lily would be obligated to practice the piano during summer vacation. 6. According to Lily, her own most important character flaw was telling lies. 7. Margaret's family was moving to Detroit because her father was going to work there in a factory that made Liberator bombers. This meant that Lily would not be able to spend the summer with her good friend. 8. Lily thought the key to Margaret's house was "the best present" she ever received because it would allow her to sneak away to the attic to be by herself to do her writing. 9. Lily learned that a young boy her age named Albert had come to their house, having arrived from Hungary. She also learned that they hoped she would become his friend.

Chapters 5 – 9

Vocabulary: 1. trestle 2. spewing 3. viaduct 4. perspiration 5. censor 6. insignia

Questions: 1. Poppy wanted Lily to row the long way home so he would have time with her alone to tell her that he was going to Europe as an engineer to be part of the post-war effort to rebuild Europe. 2. Lily became so angry at her father for telling Gram he was leaving before he told her that she failed to say goodbye to him. 3. Lily thought that Albert was a Nazi spy because he came in the middle of the night, he had an accent, and she couldn't keep track of him. 4. Albert was terrified by the trainer plane that flew across the beach. 5. Lily dreaded going to the Orbans' house because she was embarrassed to face Albert after appearing to spy on him. 6. Lily broke her vow not to tell lies when she told Mrs. Sherman that her Aunt Celia was sick with frostbite; when she told the mailman that her father was in the Secret Service; and when she told the mailman that her father was on a ship.

Chapter 10 – 13

Vocabulary: Across—3. convent 5. marquee 7. trespassing 8. jetty 9. convoy; Down—1. barnacles 2. puny
3. chomping 4. rummaged 6. stifling

Questions: 1. Lily took Albert to Margaret's house because she thought it would provide a good refuge for the kitten she rescued for him. 2. Margaret did not like living in Willow Run because she missed the ocean and the town was a collection of dismal houses slapped together for workers' families. 3. Lily was disappointed because she interpreted Albert's remark about feeding the cat to mean that he was excluding her, indicating that he didn't want to be friends. 4. While attempting to save Albert, Lily jumped into the water, only to have a wave smash into her and drag her down. Then Albert chided her for not being such a good swimmer. 5. Lily's "worst lie" was telling Albert that she would swim out to a ship and go to Europe to find her father. She realized she should not have told this to Albert because he insisted on coming along. 6. The movie upset Albert because it showed a destroyer being blown up and bombs going off, reminding him of the war he left behind in Europe and the ship on which he traveled. 7. Albert came to America without his parents because they had been killed by the Nazis for publishing an anti-government newspaper. His grandmother had arranged passage for him and his sister Ruth to get out of Germany. Ruth, however, was detained in France because she had the measles.

Chapters 14 – 18

Vocabulary: 1. vaguely—not clearly 2. parish—members of a church's congregation 3. manicure—care of the hands and nails 4. tinged—slightly colored 5. turrets—low armored structures that revolve and have guns mounted inside 6. missal—book containing the prayers and rites for celebrating Mass 7. pew—fixed, benchlike seats with backs found in a church

Questions: 1. Albert wanted to learn how to swim so that he could swim to a ship going to Europe and find his sister Ruth. 2. Lily valued Albert's friendship because he was the only friend she had ever made, except for Margaret, who now lived in Willow Run, Michigan. 3. Margaret's request to send Eddie's picture caused a problem for Lily because she knew her grandmother would disapprove of her spending time in the vacant house. It would also mark the end of her special hideout for

the kitten Albert found. Finally, it would be hard for her to get the money to send the picture. 4. Albert offered to give some of the money his grandmother had sewn into his coat collar to Lily so that she could afford to mail Eddie's picture to Margaret without telling her grandmother. 5. Lily hated practicing the piano because she didn't play well and didn't want to take the time to learn. This suggested that she was impatient. 6. Lily realized that the money Albert had received from his grandmother, like the stars her mother had affixed to her ceiling, were tokens of love from people who were lost to them. 7. Lily's lies about being able to swim to the convoy ships have given Albert false hope that he would be able to reach a ship that would take him back to Europe to find his sister Ruth. Unable to swim, he was determined to learn to swim well enough to accomplish this futile goal.

Chapters 19 – 22

Vocabulary: 1. d 2. e 3. f 4. g 5. b 6. a 7. c; 1. veered 2. irritable 3. pact 4. scrawl 5. unclench
6. liberate 7. vibration

Questions: 1. Lily concluded that things would never be the same after the war because Albert's parents were dead and he might never see his grandmother or Ruth again; people who survived the war would never feel completely safe again. 2. Lily decided to stop going to Margaret's house because both her own grandmother and Margaret's mother, grieving over Eddie, would be upset. 3. Lily had a hard time teaching Albert how to swim because he had a fear of the water and was too impatient to accept any preliminary strategies to conquer his fear. 4. Lily discovered that Gram had sent a picture of Eddie to Margaret and related her funny stories about him in a very sensitive letter. She also discovered just how much Gram missed her son, Lily's father. 5. Lily was happy that she was able to teach Albert to swim, but she was distressed because he would want to go through with the plan to get to Europe and she would have to admit to lying. 6. Lily cried because she disappointed Albert, a friend whom she had come to treasure, and because she had never said goodbye to her father before he left. 7. Albert had strong feelings of guilt for leaving Ruth in France because he had kept his eyes closed and pretended to be asleep when the nuns took Ruth, afraid that they would take him, too.

Chapters 23 – 28

Vocabulary: 1. trough 2. anthem 3. poised 4. cathedral 5. persuaded 6. smuggled 7. prickling 8. juted

Questions: 1. Lily saved Albert after he was tossed overboard by reaching out and hooking her hand around the top of his jacket. When the water grew calm, Albert gripped the boat and Lily pulled at his jacket until he tumbled into the boat. 2. Gram explained that both Lily's father and Albert's parents wanted the same thing—to help win the war so their children would have a better life. Albert's parents risked their lives publishing a newspaper, and Lily's father sacrificed his own safety to help the war effort in Europe. 3. Gram showed her love and concern for Albert by giving him a violin like the one he loved to play in Hungary. 4. Lily's father could not reveal his location because it would have been censored. Army censors would not allow army personnel to provide information that could compromise war plans. Lily concluded that her father was in France because of all the book clues he offered: *Madeline* (in Paris), *A Tale of Two Cities*; *Roland*; *The Three Musketeers*; and *The Promise*, referring to the promise that he made to her. 5. Lily and Albert were overjoyed by the news of the liberation of Paris. Albert believed he was closer to being reunited with his sister and Lily thought her father would locate Ruth in Paris. 6. Poppy was inadvertently able to remove Lily's guilt when he explained that he told Ruth, who felt guilty about not saying goodbye to Albert, that goodbyes to those you love were not significant. 7. Lily was glad to be going to Rockaway but sad because she worried that the summer would not be the same without Albert. 8. Lily vowed not to tell lies because she recalled the trouble the lie she told Albert had caused. 9. The "something lovely" Gram was referring to was the friendship between Lily and Albert.

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Charley Skedaddle.....S1159	The Twenty-one Balloons.....S0573	The Slave Dancer.....S0631	Streams to/River, River to/Sea.....S0675	
Crash.....S3001	The Upstairs Room.....S2532	Small Steps.....S3805	Summer of My German Soldier.....S0102	
Crispin: The Cross of Lead.....S3619	War Comes to Willy Freeman.....S1899	Snow Treasure.....S1072	Tangerine.....S3311	
Daniel's Story.....S2514	The War with Grandpa.....S0574	So Far From the Bamboo Grove.....S0404	Tears of a Tiger.....S3766	
Danny/Champion of the World.....S0139	Weasel.....S0524	Soldier's Heart.....S1161	That Was Then, This is Now.....S0966	
Daphne's Book.....S0962	Welcome Home, Jellybean.....S0112	The View from Saturday.....S2934	Treasure Island.....S0287	
Detectives in Togas.....S1242	When Zachary Beaver Came to Town.....S2218	Waiting For the Rain.....S0425	Watership Down.....S0111	
Dragonwings.....S0234	The Whipping Boy.....S0576	Walk Two Moons.....S2553	When the Legends Die.....S0209	
Edgar Allan.....S0031	Who Really Killed Cock Robin?.....S0934	The Watsons Go to Birmingham.....S2935	Where the Lilies Bloom.....S0995	
Elijah of Buxton.....S3807	The Wish-Giver.....S0579	The Westing Game.....S0113	Where the Red Fern Grows.....S0114	
Ella Enchanted.....S3121	GRADE 6	When My Name Was Keoko.....S3796	A Wrinkle in Time.....S0119	
Esperanza Rising.....S3616	Abel's Island.....S2933	The White Mountains.....S0210	The Yearling.....S0120	
Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff.....S1089	The Acorn People.....S0001	The Wind in the Willows.....S0291	Z for Zachariah.....S0582	
Fever 1793.....S3746	Alan and Naomi.....S0520	The Witch of Blackbird Pond.....S0116		
The Fighting Ground.....S0355	Alice in Wonderland.....S0218	Words By Heart.....S0963	GRADES 9-12	
Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule.....S3492	Anne of Green Gables.....S0521	Wringer.....S0762	1984.....S0074	
Freaky Friday.....S0034	Artemis Fowl.....S3617	Year of Impossible Goodbyes.....S2170	Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.....S0002	
Freedom Crossing.....S1162	Belle Prater's Boy.....S3122	Zlata's Diary.....S0424	All Quiet on the Western Front.....S0006	
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.....S0243	The Black Pearl.....S0013	GRADES 7-8	Angela's Ashes.....S3312	
A Gathering of Days.....S0629	Blue Willow.....S1499	Across Five Aprils.....S0984	The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing.....S3804	
George Washington's Socks.....S3618	Brian's Winter.....S1411	Adventures of Tom Sawyer.....S0003	The Bean Trees.....S3270	
The Girl Who Owned a City.....S0036	The Bronze Bow.....S2339	Animal Farm.....S0007	Beloved.....S3126	
Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!.....S3800	Catherine, Called Birdy.....S2552	Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl.....S0008	Black Boy.....S0012	
The Great Gilly Hopkins.....S0039	Chasing Redbird.....S3123	April Morning.....S0009	The Book Thief.....S3798	
The Gypsy Game.....S0860	Chasing Vermeer.....S3750	Banner in the Sky.....S1460	Catcher in the Rye.....S0021	
Harriet the Spy.....S0276	City of Ember.....S3759	Bless the Beasts and Children.....S0014	The Crucible.....S0894	
Harry Potter/Chamber of Secrets.....S2696	The Crossing.....S1348	A Boat to Nowhere.....S0015	Death of a Salesman.....S0029	
Harry Potter/Sorcerer's Stone.....S0346	The Devil's Arithmetic.....S1407	The Call of the Wild.....S0987	Fahrenheit 451.....S0032	
The Higher Power of Lucky.....S3763	Dogsong.....S0923	Cheaper By the Dozen.....S0024	Flowers for Algernon.....S0151	
Homeless Bird.....S1013	The Door in the Wall.....S0233	Children of the River.....S1624	Great Expectations.....S0295	
Ida Early Comes Over/Mountain.....S1082	Down a Dark Hall.....S0144	Chinese Cinderella.....S3756	The Great Gatsby.....S0038	
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson.....S0434	The Egypt Game.....S1399	The Chocolate War.....S0226	Hamlet.....S0929	
The Incredible Journey.....S0048	The Endless Steppe.....S1271	A Christmas Carol.....S3125	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.....S3256	
Island of the Blue Dolphins.....S0050	A Family Apart.....S0841	Come Sing, Jimmy Jo.....S0343	The Joy Luck Club.....S3127	
Jacob Two-Two/Hooded Fang.....S0752	Flush.....S3797	The Contender.....S0510	Julius Caesar.....S0502	
A Jar of Dreams.....S1625	Follow My Leader.....S0989	Criss Cross.....S3399	The Lilies of the Field.....S1073	
Jip:His Story.....S3156	Freak the Mighty.....S0419	The Dark is Rising.....S0348	Lord of the Flies.....S0065	
Journey to America.....S1103	Gathering Blue.....S3749	A Day No Pigs Would Die.....S0230	Macbeth.....S2682	
Julie.....S1513	Gentlehands.....S0395	Deathwatch.....S0030	A Midsummer Night's Dream.....S2684	
Julie of the Wolves.....S0053	The Graveyard Book.....S3803	Dacey's Song.....S0231	Murder on the Orient Express.....S0072	
The Land I Lost.....S0261	The Giver.....S0436	El Bronx Remembered.....S2190	My Ántonia.....S2554	
Letters from Rifka.....S2066	The Goats.....S0562	Farewell to Manzanar.....S0150	Night.....S0073	
Lily's Crossing.....S0508	The Golden Goblet.....S2148	Forged BY Fire.....S2868	Of Mice and Men.....S0075	
Lizzie Bright/Buckminster Boy.....S3758	Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!.....S3800	The Golden Compass.....S3169	One Flew Over/Cuckoo's Nest.....S0183	
Luke Was There.....S0927	Hatchet.....S0990	The Hobbit.....S0042	Ordinary People.....S0078	
The Maldonado Miracle.....S1350	The High King.....S0371	Homecoming.....S0668	Picture of Dorian Gray.....S0082	
Matilda.....S0375	Holes.....S0838	Hoops.....S0372	Raisin in the Sun.....S0087	
Missing Gator/Gumbo Limbo.....S2303	Homer Price.....S0692	The House on Mango Street.....S2188	The Red Badge of Courage.....S0996	
Missing May.....S0327	Homesick.....S0253	I Am the Cheese.....S0046	The Scarlet Letter.....S0093	
My Louisiana Sky.....S1007	Hoot.....S2365	I Heard the Owl Call My Name.....S0047	A Separate Peace.....S0096	
My Side of the Mountain.....S0070	The House of Dies Drear.....S1855	Johnny Tremain.....S0051	Shane.....S0097	
Olive's Ocean.....S3556	Interstellar Pig.....S0545	Killing Mr. Griffin.....S0507	Things Fall Apart.....S0759	
On My Honor.....S0997	Island on Bird Street.....S2515	A Lantern in Her Hand.....S0055	To Kill a Mockingbird.....S0106	
The Perilous Road.....S1160	Jacob Have I Loved.....S0169	Let the Circle Be Unbroken.....S1342	Twelfth Night.....S2687	
The Phantom Tollbooth.....S0184	Journey Home.....S1626	The Light in the Forest.....S0058	Up a Road Slowly.....S0632	
Philip Hall likes me.....S1408	Kira, Kira.....S2712	The Little Prince.....S0063	The War Between the Classes.....S1074	
Pictures of Hollis Woods.....S3747	Lyddie.....S0718		The Wave.....S0300	

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