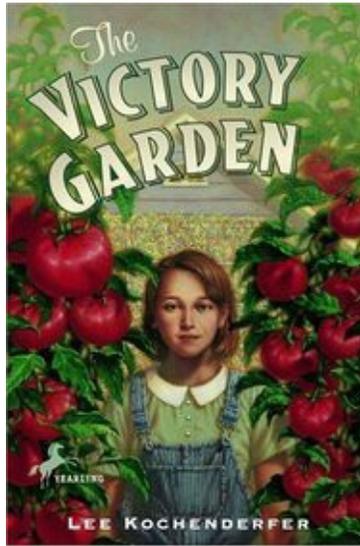


THE VICTORY GARDEN, by Lee Kochenderfer



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PREREADING:

- Take a look at the cover art on this book. What do you think this story will be about?
- What do you know about Victory Gardens?

CHAPTER 1:

- “The war is at the front. You aren't supposed to be fighting here at home.” - What do you think this means?
- Where do you think Jeff is?

CHAPTER 2:

- How could victory gardens “help to bring the boys home”?
- Listen to a clip of President Roosevelt on the radio after the bombing at Pearl Harbor.
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/fdrpearlharbor.htm>
- Listen to a clip of the evening news with Lowell Thomas.
<http://www.radiohof.org/news/lowellthomas.html>
<http://www.cliohistory.org/thomas-lawrence/thomas/broadcasting/>
- Do you know what a German U-boat is?

CHAPTER 3:

- What are some of the reasons that Mr. Burt kept such a big garden?
- What do you think Teresa's plan is to save the Burt's garden?

CHAPTER 4:

- How do the kids feel about garden work? How do you and your classmates feel about this kind of work?
- What do you Teresa's “secret weapon” is?
- Do some research on V-mail:
http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibits/2d2a_vmail.html
http://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/yourplaceandmine/topics/war/v_mail.shtml
- Write a letter to a soldier that is currently serving in a war.
- Learn some more about war bonds:
<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/ww2-history/take-a-closer-look/war-bonds.html>

CHAPTER 5:

- Why does Billy Riggs seem to have no interest in summer?
- Teresa dreams of flying. Have you ever been on a plane? What about your classmates?
- What famous pilots are mentioned in this chapter? What do you know about them?
- Jeff's hero was Jimmy Doolittle. See what you can learn about this famous pilot:
<https://doolittlecenter.org>

CHAPTER 6:

- “God gave us tears. Sometimes they help to keep us brave.” What do you think of this quote? Do you agree or disagree?
- Teresa and her dad are now in a competition. Is there such a thing as a “friendly” competition?

CHAPTER 7:

- What are some early garden crops? What are some late garden crops?
- Why do you think Billy continues to be so mean?

CHAPTER 8:

- “*Can you believe that slip of a girl drives rivets into airplanes?*” - What do you know about Rosie the Riveter?
- Listen to some of the oral histories given by other “Rosie's”:
<http://www.rosietheriveter.org/visit-discover/oral-histories>

CHAPTER 9:

- Have you learned anything else about “the secret weapon?” What do you think it is now?
- Why did Teresa lie to her parents and the sheriff? What would you have done in this situation?

CHAPTER 10:

- Why did Teresa's mom insist on sending Billy home with some chicken?
- What do you think Billy's home life is like?
- What made Billy care so much about Wolfie?

CHAPTER 11:

- Teresa is given many names by the sheriff – gardener, little lady, veterinarian, animal doctor, and detective. What other names could you give her?
- Do you have any nicknames? How did they come about?

CHAPTER 12:

- Would you have been willing to be Billy's partner in the picnic games? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 13:

- The Young Sprouts plan to take out a newspaper advertisement for their vegetable sale. How would you advertise your garden today?
- What ad would you write for your garden? At 3 cents per word, how much would your ad cost?
- Visit the National WASP museum and learn more about the Women Air Force Service Pilots:
<http://waspmuseum.org>

CHAPTER 14:

- "Summer came on its best behavior." - What does this mean?
- Explore some examples of penny postcards!
<http://www.usgwararchives.net/special/ppcs/ppcs.html>
- Can you compare the B-17 and the B-24 aircraft?
<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/exhibits/airpower/index.asp>

CHAPTER 15:

- Teresa's dad was born in 1903, the year aviation was born. Do you know what happened in the year(s) that your parent(s) were born?
- Can you fix a bike tire? Do you know anyone, like Billy, who can?

CHAPTER 16:

- What would you do if you saw a snake in the garden?
- What does Billy mean when he says that his pop is gone?
- "When people act like they want trouble, it's often because they've already got trouble." - Do you agree with this statement?
- The mumps aren't as common as they used to be during Teresa's childhood. Learn more:
<http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/>

CHAPTER 17:

- Have you ever thought that you were doing the right thing (like Teresa pollinating the tomatoes with a paintbrush) only to learn that it was unnecessary? How did that feel?
- Learn more about pollination:
<http://www.neok12.com/Pollination.htm>

CHAPTER 18:

- Do you think it helps Mr. Burt to know that his garden is being tended?
- "The being scared is worse than what you're scared of." - What does this mean? Do you agree?

CHAPTER 19:

- Design a newspaper ad for the Young Sprouts.
- Learn more about Operation Husky:
<http://www.war-experience.org/history/keyaspects/husky1943/>
- The Young Sprouts are making their final war stamp purchases. Learn more:
<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/ww2-history/take-acloser-look/war-bonds.html>

CHAPTER 20:

- How do you think Mr. Burt felt when he returned home and saw his garden?
- Was it okay for Billy to slip the tomatoes into the contest after the deadline?

CHAPTER 21:

- Were you surprised to find out about everything that Billy had been going through? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 22:

- Teresa's dad was able to get his mind off the war a bit when he was gardening. Do you have any hobbies or interests that you focus on when you want to get your mind off something else?
- Did this book end as you had hoped? Explain!
- What vegetables did the Young Sprouts grow? Can you make a list of everything that was in their garden?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

National Museum of the United States Air Force – World War II Gallery

<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/exhibits/airpower/>

National World War II Museum – Victory Garden Project

<http://classroomvictorygarden.org>

Grow your own Victory Garden – Smithsonian Resource

<http://www.gardens.si.edu/come-learn/docs/Grow%20Your%20Own%20Victory%20Garden.pdf>



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