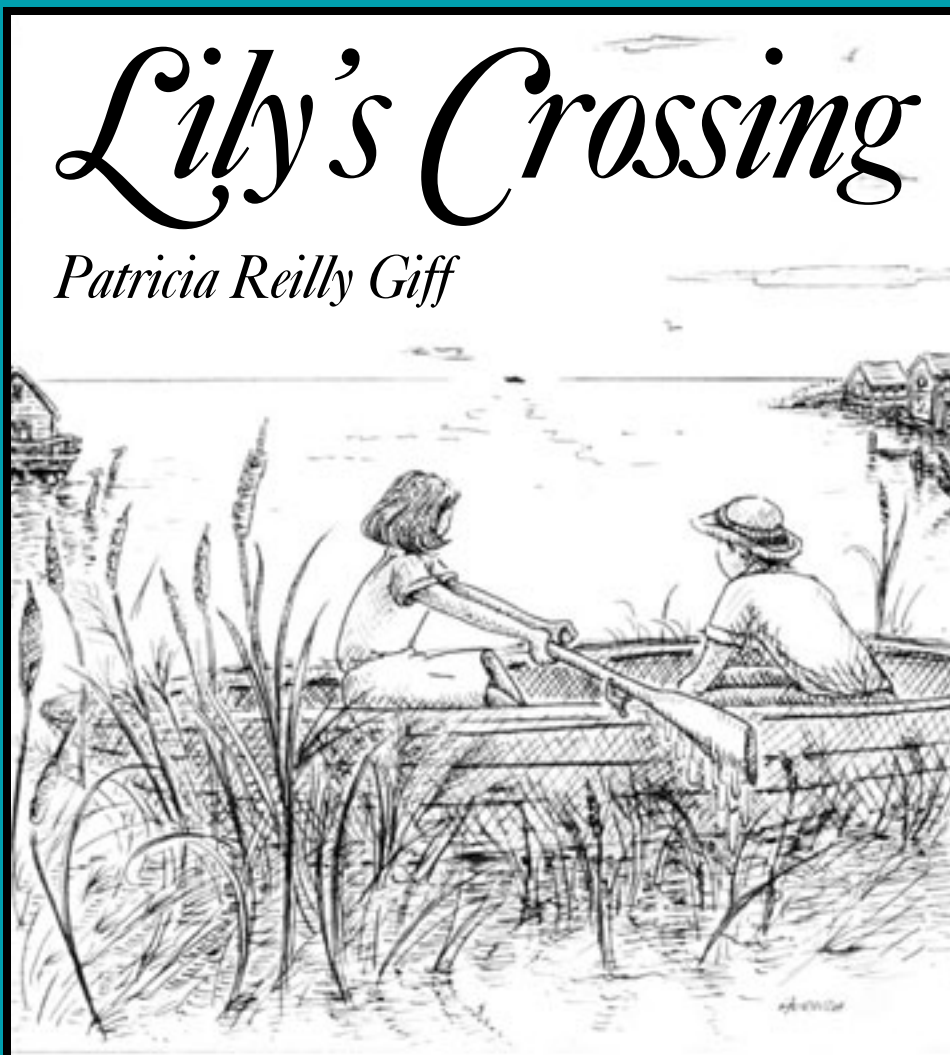


Novel·Ties

Lily's Crossing

Patricia Reilly Giff



A Study Guide

Written By Estelle Kleinman

Edited by Joyce Friedland and Rikki Kessler

LEARNING LINKS

P.O. Box 326 • Cranbury • New Jersey 08512

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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.

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.

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.