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ENEMIES IN THE ORCHARD:

A World War 2 Novel In Verse

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Common Core College & Career Readiness Anchor standards for Reading, Gr K-12

- Key Ideas and Details
 - 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
 - 2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
 - 3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
- Craft and Structure
 - 4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
 - 5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
 - 6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Grades 6-8 Literacy in History/Social Studies

- Craft & Structure
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4
 - Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5
 - Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.6
 - Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).

HITLER YOUTH & NAZI EDUCATION

PHOTO: HITLER YOUTH, GERMANY, ILLUSTRATION, CIRCA 1933. PUBLIC DOMAIN.



In Adolf Hitler's *Letters and Notes*, a book that contains his personal correspondence, Hitler writes, "I begin with the young. We older ones are used up.[...] But my magnificent youngsters! Are there any finer ones anywhere in the world? Look at all these men and boys! What material! With them I can make a new world."

In this spirit, Hitler started the Hitlerjugend, or the Hitler Youth for boys, as well as the League of German Girls. What began as optional clubs eventually became mandatory for all German children. In 1936, the German government banned all other youth groups—including the Boy Scouts—and forced members to become part of the Hitler Youth instead. By 1939, Hitler Youth membership comprised 90 percent of the country's youth. Some who refused to join formed secret resistance groups. If caught, these resisters and their families risked being arrested, tortured, or killed.

While the Hitler Youth included activities that at first glance seemed harmless and fun—camping trips, outdoor games, and sports—its purpose and mission were calculated and strategic: group activities and staged propaganda with the sole purpose of producing a new generation of Germans secure in their loyalty to the Fuhrer and the Fatherland. The intention was to build a generation of young people prepared to live and die for Hitler.

Hitler Youth & Nazi Education cont.

The teachings that were emphasized in the Hitler Youth also became a required part of the German classroom. Teachers were given the choice of joining the National Socialist Teacher's Alliance or being fired. Classes were required to begin with the greeting of, "Heil Hitler!" and the curriculum was revised to include only Nazi-approved ideas. Children who attended religious schools recount how crucifixes were replaced by portraits of Hitler and how some even prayed to him. In *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*, author Susan Bartoletti introduces readers to Henry Metelmann, a member of the Hitler Youth who eventually became a peace activist. "I was prepared to struggle for, to kill, and, if necessary, to die for my Fuhrer and country," Metelmann said. "While my parents worried about the threatening clouds of war, I believed my Hitler Youth teaching that war was a necessary cleansing process for the human race."

Discussion Questions:

- In *Enemies in the Orchard*, we see Karl growing more and more skeptical of what he was taught as a child in Germany. What hard questions do you hear Karl asking? How do those questions impact his actions?
- In her author note in *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*, Susan Campbell Bartoletti writes, "The Hitler Youth weren't born Nazis; they become Nazis." In what ways did you learn Karl was trained to be a Nazi? How did he become more and more disillusioned with the training and education he received in the Hitler Youth? What caused Karl's questioning and doubts?
- Karl faced the risk of endangering his family, being arrested, or even executed if he refused to join the Hitler Youth, and later, the German military. What are other examples throughout history that doing the right thing came at an enormous personal cost?

THE AMERICAN HOME FRONT: PROPAGANDA

ARTIST: MORLEY, AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT. WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION. PUBLIC DOMAIN.

In the poem, “Kicking Around,” Claire is sent out to the garden to pick beans and has an imaginary conversation with her brother, Danny. Although a vegetable garden would have been ordinary on a farm in a rural area like Claire’s, American families across the country were encouraged—oftentimes through propaganda like the poster shown

here—to plant Victory Gardens during World War II to prevent food shortages and show their patriotism by contributing to the war efforts. Popping up everywhere from farms and orchards to suburban backyards and small city plots, Victory Gardens were based on the idea that everyone could help the war effort by raising their own fruits or vegetables. Estimates show that 40 percent of vegetables grown in America during the war came from the almost two million Victory Gardens planted by families.

Discussion Questions:

- Propaganda, often in the form of posters, was an integral part of the United States’ efforts to motivate those on the home front. Look at some examples of United States wartime posters from the [National Archives](#). What themes do you see? How do you think these messages impacted the war efforts?
- What similarities do you see between World War II propaganda and modern-day advertising?
- Propaganda is often used by both sides during a conflict. Just as the U.S. used propaganda to motivate and rally the Americans, Hitler and the Nazi party used propaganda in Germany to send their own message. How does this impact your understanding of propaganda and its role?



THE AMERICAN HOME FRONT: MOVIES & MUSIC

Image: Pearl Harbor War Birds



Claire's community gathering in the town hall to watch a patriotic movie was modeled after the practices of many towns whose entertainment was another way to support the war effort. In fact, it's said that President Roosevelt worked with Hollywood executives to ensure the movies being produced boosted the morale of both troops overseas and Americans at home. According to the National Museum of American History, Roosevelt's administration even asked Hollywood to ask itself: "Will this picture help win the war?"

The reference to a blue star turning to a gold star after Danny's death is also based on the practice of American families who had members serving overseas. Families began placing a blue star in their windows to represent a family member serving in the military during World War I, a trend that grew in popularity during World War II. While blue stars were signs of pride, the gold stars were signs the family deserved respect for the sacrifice and heartbreak they were enduring in losing a family member to the war effort.

Discussion Questions:

- How do the home front efforts of World War II seem to vary from what you notice in modern-day wars?
- How does Hollywood and the music industry enter the dialogue of America's political conversation? How do you see this happening today?
- Where else in the novel did you learn something about the effect of World War II on Americans at home?

APPLE VARIETIES OF THE 1940S

IMAGE: PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE
AUTHOR'S FAMILY FARM, TAKEN
DURING THE SPRING APPLE
BLOSSOM, CIRCA 1954

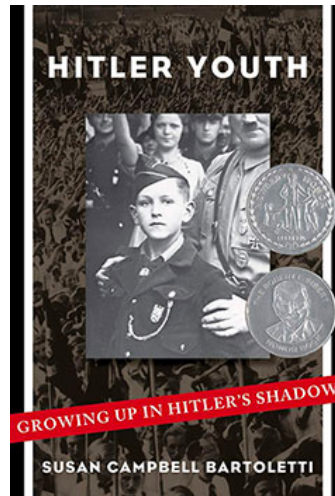


Walk into a grocery store and you'll likely see a wide variety of apples. But did you know that many of today's most popular varieties have been developed in recent years and didn't exist in the 1940s, when this story took place? For example, the popular HoneyCrisp variety was introduced into the market in the 1990s, while Pink Lady was first cultivated in Australia in 1973. All apple varieties mentioned in *Enemies in the Orchard*—McIntosh, Jonathans, Empires—have been double- and triple-checked to be varieties that would have been farmed in Michigan in 1944.

Just as human genealogy traces the roots of a family, apples are connected to each other through a network of gene and parent trees. Scientists and researchers are constantly at work developing new, and they hope tastier, apple varieties. Currently, the United States grows approximately 200 unique apple varieties. The top 10 varieties in the U.S. are Red Delicious, Gala, Granny Smith, Fuji, Golden Delicious, HoneyCrisp, McIntosh, Rome, Cripps, Pink Lady, and Empire (U.S. Apple Association, 2021).

TEXT SET & RESEARCH RESOURCES

*Hitler Youth:
Growing Up in
Hitler's Shadow*
by Susan
Campbell
Bartoletti



*The Boy Who
Dared*
by Susan
Campbell
Bartoletti



*The Faithful Spy:
Dietrich
Bonhoeffer and
the Plot to Kill
Hitler*
by John Hendrix



*The War that
Saved My Life*
by Kimberly
Brubaker Bradley

Websites:

- [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
- [The National World War II Museum](#)
- [DK Find Out! World War II](#)
- [Library of Congress World War II: A Resource Guide](#)
- [The Smithsonian: German POWs on the American Homefront](#)
- [Facing History & Ourselves Unit: Teaching Holocaust and Human Behavior](#)

DEBOER FAMILY APPLE RECIPES

Mama's Dutch Apple Pie Recipe

Pie crust:

- 1 cup flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ⅓ cup shortening
- 2-3 tablespoons of cold water

Filling:

- ⅓ cup sugar
- ¼ cup flour
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- Dash of salt

About 8 apples, peeled, cored and sliced (Cortlands, Granny Smiths, or Northern Spies, depending on what is being picked.)

Topping:

- ¾ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup flour
- ⅔ cup packed brown sugar

Mix 1 cup flour and the salt in a bowl. Cut in shortening by pulling 2 table knives through ingredients in opposite directions, until flour mixture starts to look like small peas. Sprinkle with cold water, 1 tablespoon at a time, tossing with a fork until all flour is moistened (1-2 teaspoons more water can be added, if needed). Gather pastry into a ball and shape into flattened round on lightly floured surface. Cover pastry and refrigerate for about 45 minutes, just until dough is firm and cold, yet pliable. Let pastry soften slightly before rolling out.

When your crust is ready in the pie plate, heat oven to 425 degrees. Cut and peel apples. Mix sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt and then stir in the apples. Drop the apple mixture into the crust. Then mix the topping of butter, flour, and brown sugar until a crumb forms. Sprinkle evenly over the top of the pie. Bake for 45-55 minutes, until golden brown.



DEBOER FAMILY APPLE RECIPES

Grandma DeBoer's Applesauce

8 apples—peeled, cored, and chopped. Mix apple varieties for the most flavorful sauce.

1 ½ cup water

½ cup white sugar

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

In a saucepan, combine apples, water, sugar, and cinnamon. Cover and cook over medium heat for approximately 20 minutes or until the apples are soft. Allow to cool, then mash with a fork or potato masher.

Danny's Favorite Apple Bread

1 cup sugar

½ cup shortening

2 eggs

2 cups flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon baking soda

¼ teaspoon salt

1 ½ cups of apples—peeled, cored and diced

½ cup walnuts (optional)

Mix together the sugar, shortening, and eggs. Mix the dry ingredients—the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt—in another bowl. Combine the mixtures and add the apples and nuts, if desired. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes in cleaned, used aluminum soup cans or 45 minutes in a bread pan. Test with a toothpick. When the toothpick comes out clean, you can be sure it's done.

