

ABOUT

the Author



JACQUELINE LEVERING SULLIVAN is a retired professor of writing who founded and directed the Writing Center at Pitzer College in Claremont, California. *Annie's War*, her first novel, is based on events from her childhood.



PRaise FOR

Annie's War

“Based on events in Sullivan’s childhood, this debut novel tells this story of lost innocence through the eyes of a child who is trying to make sense of what’s going on around her. . . . Sadness and strength come through, as does a realistic view of bigotry and courage, grief and kindness.”

— *Booklist*

“Set in Washington State in 1946, Sullivan’s thoughtful first novel is narrated by a feisty 10-year-old. . . . Credible characterization and dialogue help readers absorb the lessons Annie learns from wise Grandma and caring Gloria, that ‘most folks are basically good people.’”

— *Publishers Weekly*

ANNIE'S WAR

Written by Jacqueline Levering Sullivan

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-8028-5325-7 ❖ \$15.00

7.5" x 5.5" ❖ 190 pages ❖ Ages 8-12

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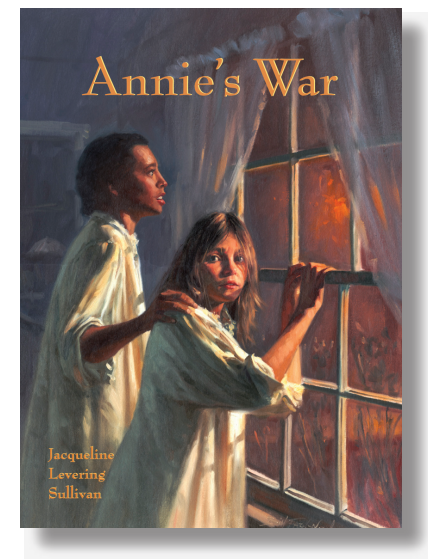
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ANNIE'S WAR

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It seemed to me too many folks were awful sad and lonely or else angry about something, like the war hadn't truly ended. Little bits and pieces of it were still stuck in everybody's craw like a tiny bit of fish bone. Not nearly enough to choke you to death but enough to make your throat raw.

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ❖ Family relationships
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ American history
- ❖ War
- ❖ Racism

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers
Discussion Guide

VOCABULARY

Look up the following terms: aggravation; Armistice Day; chaplain; dapper; figment; Murphy Bed; peaked; satchel



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE READING THE BOOK

1. Based on the title and the cover illustration, what do you think this story is about? When do you think it takes place?

2. Who is Harry S. Truman? What challenges did he face during his lifetime? Conduct research to answer these questions.

3. What qualities do you look for in a friend? Why do you think a young person might have an imaginary friend?

4. What would you do if someone you loved behaved in a way that might harm someone else? Why do you think peer pressure might cause good people to do bad things? In what ways can peer pressure be positive?



QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. Why do you think the book is titled *Annie's War*?

2. Annie's mother sent her to stay with Grandma for the summer. Why do you think Annie's mother wanted her to stay through the school year?

3. Why was Billy upset when Miss Gloria rented Grandma's apartment? Do you think others shared Billy's point of view? Why or why not?

4. What was the significance of the burning cross placed on the lawn at Grandma's house?

5. Why do you think Billy felt guilty about surviving the war? What are some of the difficulties soldiers face when they return home from war? What do you think Annie meant when she talked about Billy having wounds that could not be seen?

6. Miss Gloria faces many trials after moving into Grandma's apartment. In what ways does Miss Gloria show she is courageous? How would you have reacted if you were in her situation?

7. What is the significance of the box that Billy made for Annie? Why do you think he chose to put a butterfly design on the top?



ACTIVITIES

1. Annie's Armistice Day speech revealed how deeply she cared about her topic. What are you passionate about? Write a short speech about it and perform it for others.

2. Annie lived in the United States during World War II. Civilians at home did many things to support the war effort. Research some of the ways people helped to support the war.

3. The Vietnam War Memorial was created in 1982 to honor the soldiers who died in that war. Use library or online resources to research how those veterans were treated when they returned home. Compare and contrast the treatment of returning Vietnam veterans to that of returning World War II veterans.

4. When he returned home, Annie's father was blind. Think about how this affected his family. Research some ways people with visual impairments deal with everyday life, such as using Braille and working with assistance dogs.

5. At the end of the 1940s, Annie would be a teenager. Read about what teenage life would have been like for a girl like her. Find out about fashion and music at that time. Compare the fashions and music of the 1940s and 1950s to those of today. What are some of the things teens have today that Annie did not?

6. Letters are important in the story. Today people rarely write personal letters, but they do write letters to the editorial section of daily newspapers. Read some examples of this kind of letter. What do they have in common with personal letters? Write your own letter to the editor about a topic you care about.