



## Companion Activities to the historical fiction serialized story

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Teaching Activities written by  
**GIRL SCOUTS OF NE KANSAS & NW MISSOURI**

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Illustrations by Kanetra Kopp. Design by Sharpe Design.  
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Dear Educator,

Thank you for choosing to embark on this reading journey with your students! This is the 8th year for the Reading Across the Nation project.

Our goal with this Newspaper In Education project is to help children to develop reading skills, build vocabulary and connect with the community inside their local newspaper.

Through the Reading Across the Nation project, newspapers will publish "Window to the Past" in print and electronic editions throughout the winter and spring of 2016. If you aren't sure if your newspaper will publish the story, contact the publisher or editor.

Each weekly newspaper feature includes one chapter and an extension activity.

This companion guide was written by the Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri. The activities are designed to meet many of the badge requirements.

We hope your students enjoy "Window to the Past" and that this companion educator guide serves as a valuable resource for expanding the learning opportunities while helping you meet your goals.

Happy Reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Kitchell".

Dawn Kitchell  
NNAF Reading Across the Nation Project Coordinator  
Missouri Press Foundation & Association

## Chapter 1: The Attic Discovery

- Jenny's grandmother's trunk contained letters, photos, clothing and toys from her past. She kept these things as keepsakes to remind herself of her past, and to share it with her family and friends.

Guided Activity Ideas:

- What would you keep to help tell your story?
- Why did you choose those items? Next, ask older friends and relatives to show you and tell you about their histories, and to share items from their past with you.
- Make a production out of their stories and share their histories with others.
- Make a time capsule of your class.

Girl Scouts: (*Junior It's Your Story, Step 1, Playing the Past Badge*)

- Jenny and her grandmother had been cleaning the attic and sorting magazines for recycling when Jenny found the trunk.

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Does your classroom recycle paper and magazines? If not, start a class recycling program.
- See how many pounds of paper and magazines your class can recycle by the time this story ends. You could even have a contest with another classroom
- Did you know it takes about 500 years for plastic to break down, but it only takes paper six months? Encourage your community to use reusable canvas bags or brown paper bags more often than plastic sacks.

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Ask at home if your family reuses and recycles. If not, encourage them to start. Find out if a truck will pick up recycling at your house or find a center near your home to take them. Educate your family on reduce, reuse, recycle. Reduce what they use, reuse what they can, and recycle what they can't reuse.
- Create a recycling plan for your house, and log how much your family recycles in a week.

Girl Scouts: (*Junior Legacy, Step 4, Girl Scout Way Badge*)

## Ch. 2: Grandma Was a Girl Scout?

- Was anyone in your family in Girl Scouts when they were young?

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Ask grandparents, teachers or senior citizens in your community if they were in Girl Scouts. Discover a heroine in your life. Find out how the Girl Scout law helped her on her journey, and write her story to tell the world. Be creative; write it in a poem or a song if you like.

Girl Scouts: (*Junior It's Your World, Step 1, Scribe Badge*)

- Jenny and her grandmother both earned a Girl Scout badge for being a good citizen, which starts with being a good neighbor.

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Learn more about how your local community operates. What laws in your community make your life better and why is it important for you to follow them?
- Write about some laws that you would like to see in your community one day.
- Hold a mock congress in class to help learn how our government operates.

Girl Scouts: (*Junior Legacy, Step 3, Inside Government Badge*)

- Learn proper United States Flag etiquette such as how to carry, fold and display the American Flag.

Guided Activity Ideas:

<http://www.usflag.org/foldflag.html>

## **Chapter 3: Grandma's Girl Scout Handbook**

- Birds can be identified by their shape, color, markings, song or call and their behaviors.

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Use three things to identify at least three kinds of birds in your neighborhood.

<http://birds.audubon.org>

- Learn about wild birds near your home. Watch their behavior. Investigate their habitat.

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Make your own birdhouse to house some of the types of birds that live in your neighborhood. Use recycled materials to make it, such as a milk carton or plastic milk jug.

Girl Scouts: (*Junior It's Your Story, Step 3, Animal Habitats Badge*)

<http://www.homeschoolingsupply.com/projects.htm>

- Learn what your state bird, state flower and state tree are.

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Why were they chosen to represent your state?
  - If you were to choose a bird, flower or tree to represent yourself, what would you choose? Why?

## Chapter 4: The Diary

- A diary or journal is a fun way to record your everyday thoughts. And when a diary is discovered from a long time ago, it gives us a look back at the life of the author.

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Start your own diary or journal today for someone to discover later. Try another way of recording your thoughts. Try drawing out your diary in pictures. Make yourself a cartoon and draw in the people in your life, and the things that happen to you. Experiment with drawing your feelings.

Girl Scouts: (*Junior Legacy, Step 4, Drawing Badge*)

- Jenny and her grandmother enjoyed sharing cookies and lemonade out on the porch on a rainy day.

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Can you make a special dish that one of your older relatives or ancestors might have enjoyed? Make a recipe that involved food your ancestors would have had available to eat.

Girl Scouts: (*Junior Legacy, Step 5, Simple Meals Badge*)

- Ask older people in your family or neighborhood to share stories with you about their lives and events they remember. What can you discover about your heritage or theirs from the stories they share?

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Write your family history.

## Chapter 5: Daisy

- Learn more about Juliette Gordon Low.
- Can you think of three or four words to describe her personality? What was the reason she founded Girl Scouting in the USA? What do you think Girl Scouts did in 1912 that Girl Scouts might still do today? If you are a Girl Scout, plan your own Girl Scout troop meeting of the first troop of Girl Scouts. Write a song can the troop learn and sing at the meeting?

Girl Scouts: (*Junior Legacy, Step 1, Girl Scout Way Badge*)

Guided Activity Idea:

- Write a play about the history of Juliette Gordon Low and how the first Girl Scout troop came to be. Act it out in class.
- Daisy was Juliette Gordon Low's nickname. Do you have a nickname? How did you get your nickname? See if you can find out the meaning of your first, middle or family name.

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Try to trace back your family name to learn more about your ancestors.
- Create a family crest.
- Letter writing is becoming a lost art. How do people usually communicate with family and friends in other cities and countries?

Guided Activity Ideas:

- How did they communicate in 1912? Learn about the available options of long-distance communicating in 1912.
- Write a letter to an imaginary friend in England, telling them about you and your family or friends. You can include drawings, if you like, just like Juliette did with letters she sent her family.

## **Chapter 6: Girl Scouting in America**

- Learn about transcontinental travel in the early 1900s. How would someone get to England if they lived in the USA?  
[http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthewater/exhibition/5\\_3.html](http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthewater/exhibition/5_3.html)
  - How far is it from Savannah, Georgia, USA to London, England?  
    Guided Activity Idea:
    - Study a globe or world map and calculate the distance using the map's legend.
  - From your research on transcontinental travel, how long do you think it would have taken Juliette Gordon Low to get to England in 1910?  
    Guided Activity Idea:
    - Research how long it would take her to get there today. Plan out the transportation you would need to take to get to London, England, and how long it would take, and how much it would cost.
- Girl Scouts: (*Junior It's Your Planet, Step 1, Independence Badge*)

## **Chapter 7: A Night Under the Stars**

- Learn about stars and constellations. Which ones can you find in the night sky?  
    Guided Activity Idea:
  - Identify at least five constellations seen from Earth.  
[http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/teachers/star\\_art.html](http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/teachers/star_art.html)
- Jenny's grandfather enjoyed astronomy and had a book on the subject. In ancient cultures, people used stories to explain what they saw in the night sky.  
    Guided Activity Ideas:
  - Discover two or more of these types of stories explaining the shape of a constellation.
  - Write your own story to explain the shape of a constellation.
  - Make a recycled constellation viewer. <http://science-mattersblog.blogspot.com/2011/03/constellation-viewer.html>

## Ch.8: Exciting News for Jenny

- Learn more about Savannah, Ga., and the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace.  
<http://www.juliettegordonlowbirthplace.org/>
- Research National Historic Landmarks near your hometown.  
<http://www.nps.gov/nhl/>
- Through her grandmother's stories, Jenny was able to learn about her family's heritage and many things she had in common with her ancestors. She learned how her mother, grandmother and great-great-grandmother were all Girl Scouts. Can you find something you have in common with your ancestors? Do you share an interest in art or cooking or farming or music? Do you have similar names or live in the same area of the country?

Guided Activity Ideas:

- Create a story, timeline, chart or family tree showing the history of your family.  
Girl Scouts: (*Junior It's Your World, Step 3, Scribe Badge*)