



Think About It — Talk About It

Reading/Discussion Guide for

Keep 'Em Flying

by Nell Branum

Heroes on the Home Front Mysteries #1
Moody Publishing

Discussion Questions:

1. Riley decides to follow Grandma Suzie's suggestion to write an essay about her Great-Grandma Addie and the Rosie the Riveters. Was there more than one reason that Riley decided to enter the contest? Why did writing the essay turn out to be a good thing? Have you ever managed to do something even when you were nervous? What happened?
2. Riley wore a Rosie the Riveter costume to present her essay at the final competition, but she wasn't sure it was a good idea. Why did Riley think it might have been a mistake? How would you have felt? Did Riley ever change her mind?
3. Riley was super-impressed with the vintage military aircraft that Marcus showed her in Freedom Hall at the museum. Why do you think she liked the planes so much? Did they represent anything special for her?
4. When Miss Fran and Miss Ruth first met, Riley said they started talking "like two long-lost friends." Why do you think they were happy to be together when they just met? What helps you to make friends?
5. Miss Fran and Miss Ruth talked about the blue stars that people put in their windows during World War II. How was that like the silver bracelet with the blue star that Riley's dad gave her? Was anything else similar about Riley's situation and the Rosies' situation in World War II? How did the Rosies handle their troubles?
6. Riley could hardly believe it when she was able to take a ride in a real B-25 airplane. Why was the ride so special for her? How would you feel if you were able to ride in an authentic 1940s airplane?
7. Riley and Marcus were very angry when they discovered who the crook was. Why was it so hard to forgive that person? Why was Marcus's dad willing to forgive the person? Is it hard for you to forgive someone who does something against you?
8. Riley said that forgiving the person who did wrong was like adding one more hard thing to a huge pile of hard things she had to do. What do you think she meant by that? How did it help when she remembered Ephesians 6:10 from the Bible? How can Ephesians 6:10 help you with hard things?

Extension Activities:

1. When she reads her essay, Riley says that all Rosies didn't work as *riveters*. They had many kinds of jobs. Look for stories about real Rosies and make a list of all the different Rosie jobs you can find. See if you can find 50 different Rosie jobs for your list. One good place to find stories is on the American Rosie the Riveter Association's website at www.rosietheriveter.net.
2. Riley and Grandma Suzie visit a flight museum that has exhibits of World War II airplanes and other artifacts. See if you can locate a flight museum near you and plan a virtual or in-person trip there. Does your museum have any of the same planes that Riley saw?

1. Riley and Marcus were upset when they heard what happened to the First Lady's Rivet Gun, and even more upset when they discovered who the police suspected. Why do you think these things bothered Riley so much? Did they bother Marcus for the same reasons?