

# MARE'S WAR BOOK CLUB RESOURCES

## Questions for discussion by Tanita S. Davis

There are many untold stories of WWII, including of Japanese Americans and Aleutian natives. Were you surprised to find that the 6888th was real? Why do you think stories like this, or of the Navajo Code Talkers are not as commonly studied in school?

Tali and Octavia know nothing of their grandmother's history, and their parents seem to know little. Why do you think that might be?

Women's roles in 1940's America changed as a result of WWII. How much change came to the roles of African American women in the 1940's?

Several incidents in the book taught Mare that the U.S. Army did not see African Americans as equal partners in the war. Discuss how a specific incident affected you. Do you believe that the 6888th helped to secure a "double victory" against fascism and racism?

\*What local incident happened in Contra Costa County in 1944 which changed Naval segregation practices?

Many people describe Mare as "inspirational," and the people of the WW II era as "the greatest generation." Do you agree? How do you think Mare would define greatness?

Mare uses informal African American Vernacular English (AAVE) at the start of the novel but works throughout her time as a WAC to learn Standard American English (SAE). Do you think this was necessary for her to become who she wanted to be? Why, or why not?

After the war, when Mare went home, did you expect her to stay? Why, or why not?

What were your feelings about Mare's mother? In the end, do you believe she redeemed herself? What strengths did she give Mare? Does she deserve credit for shaping Mare into someone who could endure?

If not for Mare's choices, what do you believe would have become of Feen?

### Great Books for Mothers & Daughters

Borrowed Names: Poems about Laura Ingalls Wilder, Madam C. J. Walker, Marie Curie, and Their Daughters by Jeannine Atkins

Beauty Queens, by Libba Bray

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

Calli Be Gold, by Michele Weber Hurwitz

Inside Out & Back Again, by Thanhha Lai

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate,  
by Jacqueline Kelly

One Crazy Summer; P.S. Be Eleven; Gone Crazy in Alabama, by Rita Williams-Garcia

Saffy's Angel; Indigo Star; Permanent Rose; Caddy Ever After; Forever Rose,  
all by Hilary McKay

Out of My Mind, by Sharon M. Draper

### Further reading on World War II around the world, nonfiction, memoir, and historical fiction

He Was My Chief: The Memoirs of Adolf Hitler's Secretary, by Roger Moorehouse, Christa Schroeder

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet, by Jamie Ford

Tallgrass, by Sandra Dallas

I Am An American, by Jerry Stanley

Sarah's Key, by Tatiana de Rosnay

Night, by Elie Wiesel

I Have Lived A Thousand Years, by Livia Bitton-Jackson

Words that Burn Within Me: Faith, Values, Survival  
by Hilda Stern Cohen

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society  
by Annie Barrows, Mary Ann Schaffer

Journey to Topaz; Journey Home, by Yoshiko Uchinda

Code Talker, by Joseph Bruchac