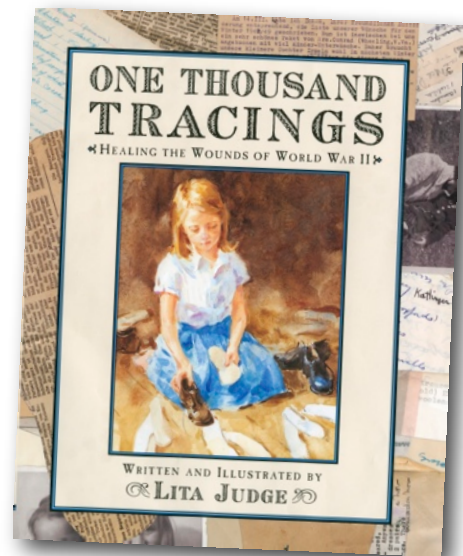


# One Thousand Tracings

## Healing the Wounds of World War II

by Lita Judge



### Activities prior to Author Visit

- Have every student trace their feet on newspaper, paper bags, or some other type of recycled paper. They should put their names on their foot tracings and hang them up in paths along the walls of the school. It might be fun to have the paths lead to the library. Write about the footprints: “Where have my feet been”, or “Where are my feet going”. Shorter pieces of writing can be posted with the footprints.
- Have students bring in a historical artifact (something old) from home with an index card that gives information about what it is, where it came from, and why it is special. This could be a family project. Create some type of history museum in your classroom.
- Use the artifacts to spark some writing...poetry or historical fiction. Shorter pieces of writing can be posted with the foot tracings.

### Activities in English/Language Arts

- Writing – Read the book to your class. After the story is finished, talk with the students about how the author created a story based on a part of her family history. Read the Author’s Note in the back of the book where she tells about finding the tracings and other artifacts in her grandmother’s attic. Note how one family provided help for a great many people and influenced others to do the same. Talk with your class about what one person can do to make the world better for others. Encourage them to see that something as small as a kind word can make a huge difference in someone’s life. Have students write about a time when someone did something kind for them, or about a time when they did something kind for someone else.
- Quick Vocabulary Connection: The word “battles”: one section of the book is called “Our Battles.” The author notes that soldiers had fought battles during the war, and now “Mama and I fought our own battle.” Have students work in pairs to locate the word “battle” in the dictionary. Discuss the types of battles that people fight. Was the battle at home the same kind of battle as the one the soldiers fought? What is different? What is similar? What battles do school students fight every day? (answers could be anything from battles between friends, battles for good grades, battles to get to the front of the lunch line, or just battles with oneself to get out of a warm bed on a very cold morning.) People fight battles with disease, with poverty, and with life circumstances.
- Writing Personal Stories: Read the “Author’s Note” to students and talk about how Lita Judge took some letters and footprints she found in her grandmother’s attic and used tidbits of memories that her mother could recall to write a fictional story strongly based in fact. Students may do the same in their writing. Have students interview a family member or friend and write a story in first person. For example, a parent may have a special watch that he or she has kept since she was a teenager. The student should ask the parent to tell about why this watch is so special. Students may be creative with the story as long as it is based on some real object and/or event. Take the students through the writing process. Have them share their stories, and edit and proofread them for one another.