

“Like the memories at the heart of this loving family portrait, Camlot’s fine writing lingers.”

—Emil Sher, playwright and author of *Young Man With Camera*

THE HEATHER CAMLOT **WE**
OTHER **SIDE**
THE EDUCATORS’ GUIDE

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PREPARING TO READ

About the book

Cover query

What predictions can you make from the cover?

Title tipoff

What does the title of the book mean and what could it signify about the novel?

Back cover copy

What do you learn about:

Setting – where and when does the novel take place?

Character – who is the protagonist?

Plot – what is the main character's story and what will happen?

Conflict – what will be the main character's biggest challenge?

Wordsplash

Predict what the novel is about using the following key words: Soccer, World Cup, Death, World War II, Toronto, Prince Edward County, Germany, Investigation, Trauma, Friendship, Family, BVB.

Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Liam finds a dead body along the shore near his grandfather's house. He can't undo what he's seen and can't focus on anything else. Liam believes there is more to the girl's story than her "accidental death" and decides to investigate.

Only when Liam visits his grandfather, living in palliative care, do things begin to change. As they watch Germany's 2014 World Cup soccer games together, his grandfather, a German World War II veteran, reveals stories about his past – stories a Jewish North American kid doesn't want to hear.

Angry and overwhelmed, Liam is swept up in a history that may just help him solve the girl's death – and make sense of his own world again.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the themes in *The Other Side*? Provide some examples of how these themes come through.

2. Why is Liam so overwhelmed by his grandfather's stories? Have you listened to or heard your grandparents' stories? How did they make you feel?

3. Why is Liam so convinced the teenage girl's death wasn't an accident? Why does he feel compelled to investigate?

4. What lessons does Liam learn from his grandfather? What lessons are his grandfather trying to convey? Are they the same?

5. How would you describe Liam's relationships with his parents, his sister, Alessia, Reagan, Coach, his soccer team, and Dr. Burakgazi?

6. The main characters in the novel all show their passions. What are the passions of Liam, Alessia, and Elvy? What are your passions? What would force you to give up your passion?

7. Everyone deals with death differently. How does Liam deal with losing a stranger and a loved one? How does Elvy? How does their father?

8. How does the author use the game of soccer and the FIFA World Cup competition in the novel? Is soccer *just* a game?

MAKING CONNECTIONS – THEME

Text to self: How *The Other Side* reminds you of an experience in your own life.

The (scene) in *The Other Side* reminds me of the time in my life when...

The (scene) in *The Other Side* reminds me of (moment), but it didn't work out that way because...

The Other Side makes a lot of sense to me because in my life...

The Other Side doesn't make sense to me because in my life...

I'd like to be friends with (name) because...

I'd like to know more about (event/person/place) in *The Other Side* because...

Text to text: How *The Other Side* reminds you of another story, novel, movie, song, etc.

The Other Side reminds me of (media) because...

The (scene) in *The Other Side* reminds me of (media) because...

Although the theme(s) of (media) and *The Other Side* are the same, they take a very different turn because...

Text to world: How *The Other Side* reminds you of world issues and events – past, present, and future.

The Other Side reminds me of (event, issue) that happened in (year) in (city/country), when...

The Other Side reminds me of what's happening in the world today because...

Although *The Other Side* happens in 2014, its themes and ideas could be a warning about the future because...

UNIVERSAL THEMES

COMING OF AGE

FAMILY

FRIENDSHIP

ACCEPTANCE

HONESTY

LOYALTY

COURAGE

DEATH

DIVERSITY

SECRECY

WAR

WINNERS &
LOSERS

DISILLUSIONMENT
AND DREAMS

SELF-DISCOVERY

MAKING CONNECTIONS – CHARACTER

When authors develop a character, they think about how that character looks, speaks, thinks, and acts, as well as how others see the character.

Examine a character from *The Other Side* by filling in the information below.

Character name:

How the character looks

How the character speaks

How the character thinks

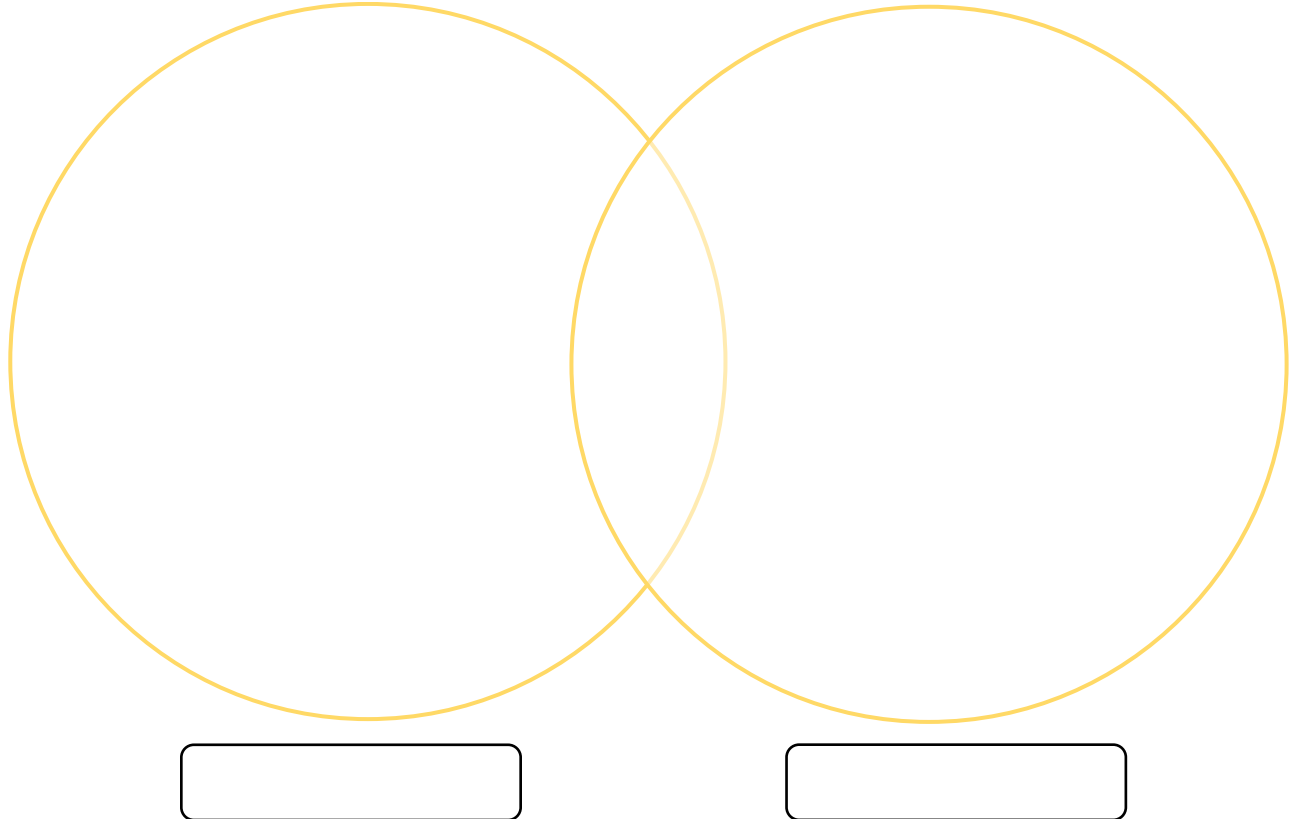
How the character acts

How others see the character

Other notable character traits

MAKING CONNECTIONS – CHARACTER

Compare and contrast two characters from *The Other Side*. What do they have in common? What makes them different?



GETTING INTO CHARACTER

Pretend you are one of the characters in the novel. Write a letter to another character or compose a diary entry just before or after a big event.

Pick a scene in which you disagree with a character's decision. Why do you disagree? What would you say or do differently? How would the story change?

Create a new character for the novel. Use the trait sheet on the next page to develop the character. How would he or she change the story?

CHARACTER TRAIT SHEET

Though you may not use everything you dream up for your character, the more you know, the richer that character will be on the page.

Name and age	
Physical appearance (body type, height, posture...)	
Facial features (hair, eyes, skin, nose, freckles, rash...)	
Background (religion, ethnicity, community...)	
Ailments or habits (fidgety...)	
Outer attitude (easygoing...)	
Inner attitude (self-loathing...)	
Always wears/carries	
Favorites (sports, books...)	
Hobbies/talents	
Goals/dreams	
Secrets/fears	
What others admire/despise	
Best/worst quality	
Character's history	
How they see the world	

ENDING AFTER THE ENDING

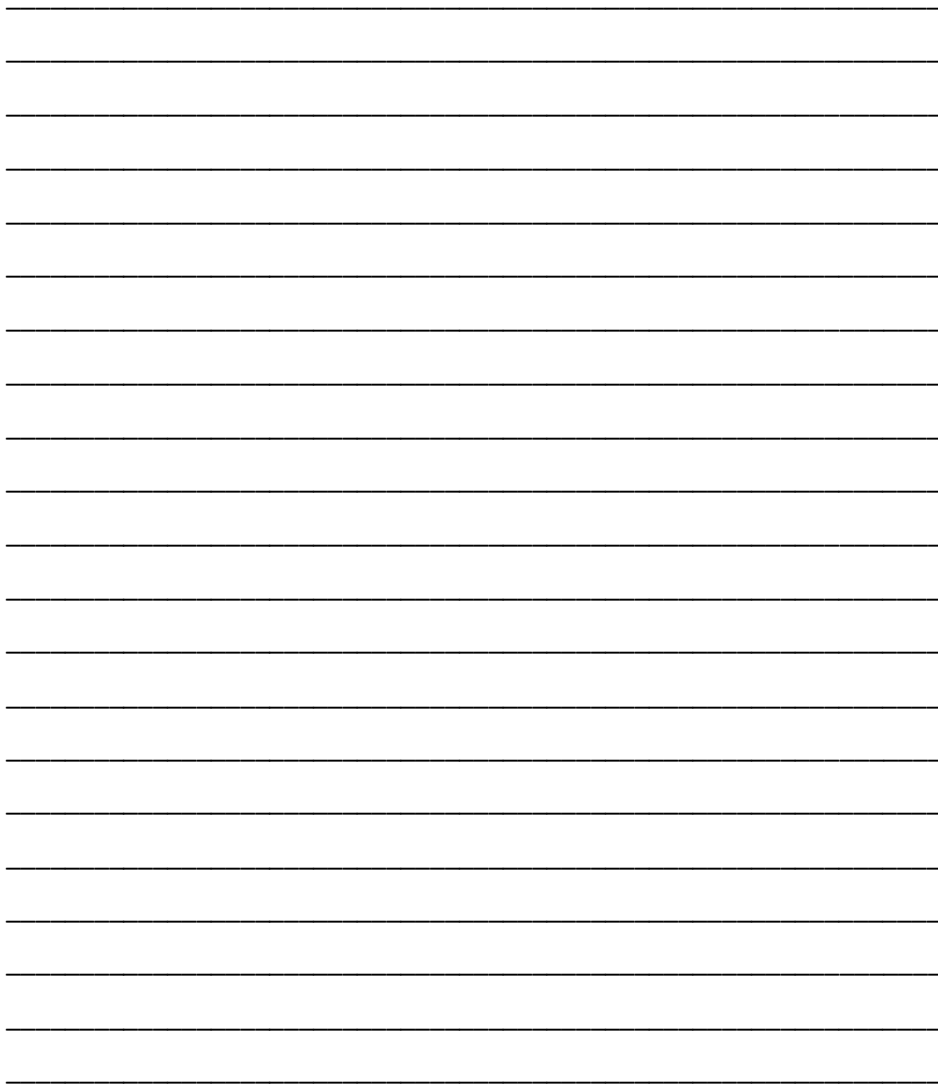
What do you mean the novel ends like that? But I want to know...

Have ideas of what happens next to Liam, Alessia, Elvy, and the others? Write an epilogue for *The Other Side*.

Chapter title:

Chapter quote:

New author name:



A large rounded rectangular box with a yellow border, containing 20 horizontal lines for writing an epilogue.

EXTENDING YOUR READING

Pick your favorite subject to get up close and personal with *The Other Side*.

Geography

- Liam talks about visiting Germany with Elvy to see the places Opa mentioned. Create a travel itinerary and map for the novel's real locations.
- Create a travel journal/board of a place you want to visit.

Media literacy

- Film a trailer for the novel.
- Write your own play-by-play of the final game in the 2014 World Cup and record it for radio or film it for television.
- Write a news report about Calynn's death.

Physical education

- Organize a soccer game between teachers and students.
- Create a soccer development plan for Liam.

Visual arts

- Create a woodcut like Käthe Kollwitz.
- Turn an important scene into a comic strip or cartoon.
- Create a poster for an upcoming World Cup or Olympic Games.

English and literature

- Write a letter to the author.
- Read one of Alessia's books and explain why it should be in your school library.

History

- Research the rise of Nazism and anti-Semitism in 1930s Germany.
- Write a scene as a spectator at the 1936 Olympics or as a child waiting for the Candy Bomber.
- Research a grandparent or a historical figure you admire.

Family studies

- Bake some German pretzels or, if you're really game, cook sauerkraut!

PLOTTING A MYSTERY

When Liam discovers a dead body by the shore of his grandfather's cottage, he gets swept up in the mystery of the teenager's death. Use the following chart to plot Calynn's mystery or to create your own.

CRIME: What crime has been committed that needs to be solved?



SETTING: Where and when does the crime and story take place?




DETECTIVE: Who is on the case?




SUSPECTS: Who may have committed the crime and what are their motives?



CLUES: What hints are discovered that may be connected to the suspects?



RED HERRINGS: What clues are actually not clues at all but lead the detective astray?



SOLUTION: How is the crime solved?

WRITING A NEWS STORY OR A FICTIONAL ACCOUNT

Liam reads the county newspaper to keep up to date on the investigation of the teenage girl's death. Using the true events below, create your own news story or short story.

In 1936, Germany hosted the Summer Olympic Games in Berlin. The Olympians were instructed not to leave the grounds and few Jewish athletes attended The Games.

REPORTER: Report on what was happening in the city of Berlin while the Olympics were taking place. What was Hitler trying to hide?

AUTHOR: Pretend you are a Jewish athlete at the Olympics, like Irving "Toots" Meretsky. What do you see, feel, hear at the Games and in the city?

The German National Team had a stellar performance at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

REPORTER: Write an article about the final match, including best moments, nail-biting situations, and play-by-plays.

AUTHOR: Pretend you are in the stands watching the final match of the World Cup. Who are you cheering for? What's the atmosphere like? What do you hope happens? Why are you there?

Alessia always has a book with her and hopes to get her school to add more books with black characters, by black writers, and dealing with black experiences.

REPORTER: Write a profile of Alessia and her fight for representation in the school library.

AUTHOR: Write a short story based on your own background and experience or about something you are hoping to change.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ – CHAPTERS 1-5

1. What does Liam find at the shore?
 - A. A soccer ball
 - B. A dead body
 - C. A fish skeleton
 - D. A snakeskin
2. What animal of prey is Liam worried about?
 - A. Turkey vulture
 - B. Red fox
 - C. Red squirrel
 - D. Garter snake
3. On D-Day, where did Canadian troops land?
 - A. Utah Beach
 - B. Omaha Beach
 - C. Juno Beach
 - D. Gold Beach
4. What is the name of the dead girl?
 - A. Reagan
 - B. Alessia
 - C. Calynn
 - D. Elvy
5. Whose card does Opa receive?
 - A. Kane
 - B. Reagan
 - C. Alessia
 - D. Ryder
6. What author does Opa look like?
 - A. John Steinbeck
 - B. Ernest Hemingway
 - C. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
 - D. Wesley King
7. What does Opa ask Liam to bring to the hospital his next visit?
 - A. Sketch paper
 - B. popsicle sticks
 - C. White paint
 - D. Glue
8. Who is Liam's soccer hero?
 - A. Roman Weidenfeller
 - B. Thomas Müller
 - C. Mario Götze
 - D. Manuel Neuer
9. What is Liam supposed to be drawing?
 - A. New England
 - B. New Amsterdam
 - C. New France
 - D. New York
10. What German city is Opa from?
 - A. Dortmund
 - B. Leipzig
 - C. Munich
 - D. Berlin

Answer key: 1B, 2A, 3C, 4C, 5A, 6B, 7D, 8A, 9C, 10D

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ – CHAPTERS 6-10

1. Name two of Liam's teammates.
 - A. Kai and Ari
 - B. Arjun and Marco
 - C. Ryder and Alex
 - D. Xavion and Justin
2. What was Liam into before soccer?
 - A. Trucks
 - B. Lego
 - C. Thomas the Tank Engine
 - D. Softball
3. Who was the only Jewish athlete on the 1936 Canadian Olympics team?
 - A. Irving Meretsky
 - B. Fanny Rosenfeld
 - C. Jesse Owens
 - D. Mack Robinson
4. Who did Opa see in the stands at the Opening Ceremonies?
 - A. Käthe Kollwitz
 - B. Marlene Dietrich
 - C. Albert Einstein
 - D. Adolf Hitler
5. What disease does Opa have?
 - A. Pancreatic cancer
 - B. Diabetes
 - C. Oral cancer
 - D. Coronary artery disease
6. Who is George?
 - A. Alessia's brother
 - B. Calynn's grandfather
 - C. Opa's neighbor
 - D. Liam's father
7. Which of Alessia's belongings does Elvy grab?
 - A. Her novel
 - B. Her fish skeleton
 - C. Her phone
 - D. Her notebook
8. Who has been brought in for questioning about Calynn's death?
 - A. A visitor from Toronto
 - B. Calynn's father
 - C. A local woman
 - D. A local man
9. How old was Opa when he was sent to the army?
 - A. Eighteen
 - B. Twenty-one
 - C. Sixteen
 - D. Twenty-five
10. Whose biography is Alessia reading?
 - A. Drake
 - B. Childish Gambino
 - C. Duke Ellington
 - D. Richie Havens

Answer key: 1B, 2C, 3A, 4D, 5A, 6B, 7C, 8D, 9C, 10A

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ – CHAPTERS 11-15

1. One side of Liam's family is German, the other side is:
 - A. Asian
 - B. Black
 - C. Jewish
 - D. Muslim
2. What does Liam call Opa's hospital roommates?
 - A. Mr. Snorer and Mr. Gargler
 - B. Mr. Hacker and Mr. Picker
 - C. Mr. Smiley and Mr. Grouch
 - D. Mr. Old and Mr. Older
3. Which soccer brothers face each other in the Germany vs Ghana game?
 - A. The Toures
 - B. The Charltons
 - C. The Alcantaras
 - D. The Boatengs
4. What did Werner want to keep safe?
 - A. Family photos
 - B. Letters
 - C. Stamps
 - D. Artwork
5. What does Liam discover in the kitchen pantry?
 - A. German pretzels
 - B. A dead mouse
 - C. Montreal bagels
 - D. A blowfish skeleton
6. Which box is misplaced in the garage?
 - A. Fotos/Photos
 - B. Kinder/Children
 - C. Bärchen/Little bear
 - D. Deutschland/Germany
7. Which team is the best in Liam's soccer league?
 - A. The Hornets
 - B. The Vipers
 - C. The Cougars
 - D. The Cormorants
8. What items are in the box for Opa?
 - A. A ticket to Germany
 - B. Cookies and drawings
 - C. Baseball glove and ball
 - D. Alessia's books
9. What is a *Panzerfaust*?
 - A. A military command
 - B. A dance
 - C. A warplane
 - D. An anti-tank weapon
10. What did the *rosinenbomber* drop?
 - A. Fruit
 - B. Flower seeds
 - C. Candy
 - D. Bombs

Answer key: 1C, 2A, 3D, 4C, 5B, 6D, 7A, 8B, 9D, 10C

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ – CHAPTERS 16-20

1. What new sport does Liam try?
 - A. Baseball
 - B. Football
 - C. Hockey
 - D. Basketball
2. What does Liam yell when the plane passes overhead?
 - A. "Take cover!"
 - B. "Get out of my way!"
 - C. "Boom!"
 - D. "It's a suicide mission!"
3. What is parked outside the ice-cream factory?
 - A. A yellow car
 - B. A police car
 - C. A black pickup truck
 - D. A rusted tractor
4. Who is arrested at the ice-cream factory?
 - A. George
 - B. Liam
 - C. Magnar
 - D. Opa
5. Why does Elvy beg Liam for help?
 - A. She lost her soccer ball
 - B. She dropped her ice cream
 - C. She can't swim
 - D. She fell down the cliff stairs
6. What does Liam find at the shore?
 - A. Magnar Geyer
 - B. A striped ribbon
 - C. A package of stamps
 - D. The missing letters
7. Who lived near Opa in Berlin?
 - A. Albert Einstein
 - B. Adolf Hitler
 - C. Käthe Kollwitz
 - D. Luz Long
8. According to Opa, saving a person's life makes one a:
 - A. Hero
 - B. Human being
 - C. Leader
 - D. Big shot
9. Who is Mr. Gargler?
 - A. A former soccer player
 - B. A famous scientist
 - C. A Canadian war veteran
 - D. A Holocaust survivor
10. What does Liam find in bed?
 - A. The missing stamps
 - B. A dead mouse
 - C. His zaidie's baseball bat
 - D. A new Weidenfeller poster

Answer key: 1B, 2D, 3A, 4C, 5A, 6B, 7C, 8B, 9D, 10A

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ – CHAPTERS 21-24

1. Where was Liam's great-grandfather taken when he disappeared?
 - A. Sachsenhausen concentration camp
 - B. The Soviet gulag
 - C. Devil's Island
 - D. Auschwitz-Bikernau killing centre
2. Who is in Opa's hospital room?
 - A. Opa
 - B. Dr. Burakgazi
 - C. Mr. Gargler
 - D. Mr. Snorer
3. What does Liam discover on Opa's living room wall?
 - A. A real Picasso painting
 - B. A real Kollwitz sketch
 - C. A hidden safe
 - D. A letter with his name on it
4. What did Opa create with the glue, paint, and popsicle sticks?
 - A. The Olympiastadion
 - B. The Brandenburg Gate
 - C. The Berlin Zoo
 - D. The Berlin Wall
5. What is inside the model?
 - A. The stamps
 - B. The letters
 - C. The ribbon
 - D. A dead mouse
6. Elvy agrees to visit Germany on what condition?
 - A. A pretzel-making class
 - B. A boat ride along the Rhine
 - C. A stop in Paris
 - D. No sauerkraut
7. Who quits Liam's old soccer team?
 - A. Ryder
 - B. Arjun
 - C. Marco
 - D. Xavion
8. What does Liam leave by Calynn's grave?
 - A. The ribbon for bravery
 - B. Yellow roses
 - C. A County Cougars jersey
 - D. A Borussia Dortmund jersey
9. What tumbles out of Liam's knapsack by Opa's grave?
 - A. Elvy's teddy bear
 - B. One of Alessia's books
 - C. The package of stamps
 - D. The Käthe Kollwitz sketch
10. Who scores the winning goal of the 2014 World Cup final?
 - A. Lionel Messi
 - B. Roman Weidenfeller
 - C. Mario Götze
 - D. Thomas Müller

Answer key: 1A, 2C, 3B, 4A, 5C, 6D, 7C, 8A, 9B, 10C

HISTORICAL FACTS

The 1936 “Nazi” Olympics and Irving “Toots” Meretsky

Between August 1-16, 1936, Germany welcomed athletes from all over the world to the Summer Olympic Games. Adolf Hitler had become chancellor of the country three years earlier. He used the Games as a propaganda tool, to show the world its strong recovery since World War I. But Hitler’s systematic persecution of Jews, Roma, and political opponents had already begun. The Nazis simply camouflaged their discriminatory actions and agenda by taking down anti-Semitic signs and being on “good” behavior during the two weeks of the Games. Many countries and organizations had campaigned for a boycott the Olympics, but once the United States agreed to attend, others followed suit. Many Jewish athletes opted to stay at home. Those who did attend, like Canada’s Irving “Toots” Meretsky, were very few. Three years later, World War II began and the Holocaust would see the killing of millions of Jews, Roma, homosexuals, and political opponents of Hitler and the Third Reich.

Germany’s child soldiers during World War II

Have you seen the film *Jojo Rabbit*? Did you notice anything peculiar about the final battle scene? It was being fought by old men and children. This is in fact a realistic depiction of battlegrounds at the end of World War II when so many soldiers had been wounded or killed at the front. With few soldiers of fighting age left, the Third Reich turned to the children it indoctrinated and trained through its Hitler Youth organization, pulling the students out of school, handing over weapons, offering a few hours of training, and sending them off to fight.

Watch the battle scene from *Jojo Rabbit* here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W60HP84-hJs>

The art of Käthe Kollwitz

Käthe (Schmidt) Kollwitz (1867-1945) was a German Expressionist artist whose work in sculpture, painting, and printmaking depicts social injustice, war, and human suffering. She married Dr. Karl Kollwitz, who set up a practice in the

Prenzlauer Berg neighborhood of Berlin, where Käthe saw first-hand how the urban poor lived. But it was the death of her youngest son during World War I that affected her gravely both emotionally and artistically. She became a pacifist and launched a series of works featuring mothers as protectors and grievers. In 1920, she was the first woman member elected to the Prussian Academy of Arts. By the mid-1930s, she was being questioned by the Gestapo (the Nazi secret police), her artwork was being removed from exhibits, and she was labelled a “degenerate” artist. Her home was destroyed during a bombing in 1943. She passed away shortly before the end of World War II.

The candy bomber

After World War II, the Soviet Union occupied East Germany, while the United States, France, and Britain divided and occupied West Germany. As the former capital, Berlin, situated in East Germany, was also divided by the four Allied powers. But after a time, the three western countries combined their zones into one economic area and developed a new currency – all of which didn't sit well with the Soviets. So, in 1948, the Soviet Union blocked all land, water, and rail ways into West Berlin. The Western countries were forced to fly in food and supplies. During the Berlin Airlift, one American pilot by the name of Gail Halvorsen noticed children watching him while filming planes at the airfield. That's when he had the idea to drop chocolate and candy by parachute during his next flight. He wiggled the wings of his plane as a sign to the children and the parachutes floated down to excited hands. Soon after, candy donations started pouring in and other pilots helped out too. The Berlin Blockade lasted eleven months, until May 1949.

EXTERNAL LESSON PLANS

Facing History – Youth and the National Community:

<https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/teaching-holocaust-and-human-behavior/youth-and-national-community>

Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre – The 1936 Games:

http://vhec.org/1936_olympics/the_1936_games/teach_and_learn

Veterans Affairs Canada – Youth Remember D-Day and the Battle of Normandy:

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/information-for/educators/learning-modules/d-day>

Art Gallery of Ontario – Becoming Käthe Kollwitz:

https://ago.ca/sites/default/files/AGOTeacherResource_KKollwitz_0.pdf

Toronto Star Classroom Connection Teachers' Guide – Black History Matters:

<https://www.classroomconnection.ca/bhm.html>

The Guardian – How to Teach the World Cup...2014:

<https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/teacher-blog/2014/jun/02/how-to-teach-world-cup-fifa>

Oxfam – The World Cup. A Fair Game?:

<https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/handle/10546/620666>

Common Sense Education – Crime Scene Investigation:

<https://www.commonsense.org/education/lesson-plans/crime-scene-investigation>

ALESSIA'S BOOKS

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Elijah of Buxton*. Toronto: Scholastic Canada. 2007.

Elliott, Zetta. *A Wish After Midnight*. Brooklyn, NY: Rosetta Press. 2008.

Higgins, Dalton. *Far From Over: The Music and Life of Drake*. Toronto: ECW Press. 2012.

Sadlier, Rosemary. *The Kids Book of Black Canadian History*. Toronto: Kids Can Press. 2003.

Wesley, Gloria Ann. *Chasing Freedom*. Black Point, NS: Roseway Publishing. 2011.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Heather Camlot dreams of travelling back in time. Until that's possible, she happily writes about fascinating moments from the past.

She's the author of the novels *Clutch*, which was named one of *Kirkus's* Best Books of 2017, and *The Other Side*. Her nonfiction book *What If Soldiers Fought with Pillows?* received a compliment of the highest order when *Booklist* said it "should be paired with John Lennon's *Imagine*."

Heather graduated from Concordia University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies and from New York University with a Master of Arts in Journalism.



A journalist, editor, and translator, she's written for *Quill & Quire*, *Canadian Children's Book News*, *Owl*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Style at Home* and many more.

When she's not working, she's consuming vast amounts of television, living in old movies or getting lost in music.

She lives in Toronto with her husband and children, but will forever call Montreal home.