

Lisa of Willesden Lane – “And remember that I love you”

**TOPIC**

Inspiration

GRADE LEVEL

3-5

DURATION

45 minutes

SUBJECT AREA

ELA

DESCRIPTION OF THE LESSON

In this activity, students will read an excerpt from *Lisa of Willesden Lane* to consider how individuals can be a source of inspiration and motivation. Students will review the definition of inspiration and interpret a quote from the biographical narrative to develop a deeper understanding of the concept. Then, they will consider how the quote “You must promise me...that you will hold on to your music. Please promise me that.” relates to them and reflect on who/what inspires and motivates them. As a final project, students will construct a simple origami box and enclose their reflections within. This activity is recommended as a pre-activity to reading *Lisa of Willesden Lane*.

STANDARDS ADDRESSED**CSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.5**

Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relations, and nuances in word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

MATERIALS

- Student Handout 1 – An excerpt from *Lisa of Willesden Lane* “And remember that I love you,” pages 17-19
- Clip of Testimony – Alice Boddy (1:22 min)
- Student Handout 2 – Alice Boddy biography; historical background on the Kindertransport and the Holocaust
- Origami Paper
- Markers/Pencils/Pens

LEARNING AIMS

As a result of this activity, students will...

- Analyze primary and secondary sources
- Assess the value of finding inspiration
- Recognize or determine personal forms of inspiration

Lisa of Willesden Lane – “And remember that I love you”

Consider

Whole Group Discussion: Let students know that throughout this short lesson, they will consider the topics of inspiration and motivation, key themes in *Lisa of Willesden Lane*, by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen.

Partner/Share/Discuss: Open the discussion by asking the class the following:

- *What does it mean to find inspiration?*
- *Why do we need inspiration?*
- *What does it help us accomplish?*
- *In what ways does it help?*
- If needed, review the definitions of inspiration and motivation.
- Have students discuss with partners and then share out.

Quote Analysis: In *Lisa of Willesden Lane*, a biographical narrative of Kindertransport refugee and musical prodigy Lisa Jura, Lisa’s mother tells her, “You must promise me...that you will hold on to your music. Please promise me that.” What do you think she means by that? How is it connected to the idea of inspiration?

Reflection: Why is it important to find inspiration or motivation?

Collect

Excerpt Reading and Discussion: Pass out “Student Handout 1” and read it as a class. Then, ask students to explain how the excerpt connects to inspiration or motivation. (You may want to have students read and annotate it independently or with partners prior to this lesson.)

- › **Guiding questions:** In what way is inspiration present in the excerpt? Why does Lisa need it? What does it help accomplish?

The Kindertransport: Tell students that they will watch a clip of testimony from Alice Boddy. Explain that Alice Boddy had to leave her home in Vienna, Austria and travel to Great Britain by train on the Kindertransport to reach safety. Explain to students that Alice is a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust. (See “Student Handout 2” for Alice Boddy’s biography and historical background). Then have students read the brief descriptions from the Student Handout, or read it aloud to them. Answer any questions that they may have about the information. Explain to students that during Alice Boddy’s journey on the Kindertransport, she faced many challenges and had to show extraordinary courage to overcome these challenges.

Clip of Testimony Viewing: Now students will watch a clip of testimony and listen for how inspiration plays a role in her story. Watch the clip twice.

- › **First viewing:** Have students read the biography and answer any questions they may have about the information. Then, have them watch the clip. Afterwards, ask volunteers to summarize the story and answer clarifying questions.
- › **Second viewing:** As students listen, have them listen for phrases that answer the guiding questions: In what way is inspiration present in the clip? Why does Alice Boddy need it? What does it help accomplish? Encourage them to take notes in the box under the biography.

***Lisa of Willesden Lane* – “And remember that I love you”**

Partner/Share/Discuss: Have students share their ideas with a partner and then with the class.

Quote Connection: Now have students discuss how these examples connect to Lisa’s mother’s request.

- › **Guiding question:** How do both of these instances, Lisa’s story and Alice Boddy’s story connect to the quote “You must promise me...that you will hold on to your music. Please promise me that”?

Construct

Personal Connection: Now lead a class discussion. Ask students to think about how the quote “hold on to your music” resonates with or inspires them.

- *What is their “music” – their goal?*
- *What might motivate them to accomplish it?*
- *How could that motivation help them to not give up on their goal?*
- *Why?*

Origami: Have students build an origami heart box that includes their response to the following question that can be written on a Post-It or small strip of note paper:

What inspires you and helps you to “hold on to your music”?

Next, have students watch the Origami Heart Box video Tutorial and/or the step-by-step photograph instructions to assemble their heart box using the links below. Then, have students put their written message inside their heart box.

- › **Instructions (click links below):**

[Create an origami heart box tutorial](#)

[Create an origami heart box step-by-step photograph directions:](#)

Communicate

Whole Group Discussion: Ask volunteers to share part of their responses, either their inspiration or their goal.