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## Review: Genevieve's War

Rachel Schwedt

*Liberty University*, [reschwed@liberty.edu](mailto:reschwed@liberty.edu)

Janice A. DeLong

[jadelong@liberty.edu](mailto:jadelong@liberty.edu)

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## *Genevieve's War*

By Patricia Reilly Giff

Holiday House, 2017

### DESCRIPTION:

After spending the summer with her grandmother in the Alsace region of France, thirteen-year-old Genevieve is about to return home to New York. It is 1939, and with the threat of German invasion growing, this is the last opportunity for her to leave the country before the ports are closed to travel. Though Genevieve has not gotten along well with her sharp-tongued grandmother, she unexpectedly makes a last minute decision to stay. With the German military advancing inexorably toward the Alsace, Genevieve and her grandmother harvest the last of the crops, preserve food, and hide supplies and family valuables. The wisdom of these actions becomes apparent when an officer is billeted in their cottage and their animals are confiscated to feed the German soldiers. Life is frightening and challenging during the occupation, especially when food is short, and it is hard to know who can be trusted. When it is necessary to hide Remy, a young member of the Resistance, the danger and intrigue increase. Genevieve soon becomes a part of the Resistance herself, taking on dangerous missions to protect her friends and neighbors. As the war continues and she takes on more responsibility, she matures in her understanding and comes to appreciate her grandmother's courage, strength, and the sacrifices she makes for her family and her country. This story is full of action, suspense, and surprises.

### CRITIQUE:

In this title, Patricia Reilly Giff presents believable characters who exhibit strong qualities of personal responsibility, respect, and trustworthiness. Though she starts out as a rather flighty, irresponsible girl, Genevieve rises to meet the challenges put before her, exhibiting courage and resourcefulness as she grows into a trustworthy and loving young woman. Her turnaround is not instantaneous but progresses at a believable pace throughout the narrative. This story would be a good introduction to the hardship and heroism required of people living under the occupation of a foreign army. This is a companion title to *Lily's Crossing* and *Island War* by the same author.

### RELATED SUBJECTS:

Alsace, Boy-girl relationships, Cross-generational relationships, Family relationships, France, Grandparents, Heroes, History, Nazi soldiers, Survival, Underground movements, War, World War II

### CHARACTER THEMES:

Cooperation, Cleverness, Coping, Courage, Devotion, Endurance, Family loyalty, Patriotism, Resilience, Responsibility, Self-reliance, Spunk, Survival (Physical), Trustworthiness

### AWARDS:

Best Children's Books of the Year (Bank Street), Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award, Christopher Award, Lamplighter Award, Parent's Choice Award, Sequoyah Book Award (OK), South Carolina Junior Book award (Young Adult), Teacher's Choices