



Molly: An American Girl : 1944

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Molly is a lively, lovable schemer and dreamer growing up in 1944. Her stories describe her life on the home front during World War Two. Molly doesn't like many of the changes the war has brought, and she especially misses her father, who is away caring for wounded soldiers. But Molly learns the importance of getting along and pulling together -- just as her country has to do to win the war. The perfect way to learn about Molly is with a complete set of her six books in an attractive slipcase.

Molly: An American Girl : 1944 Details

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Author : Valerie Tripp

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From Reader Review Molly: An American Girl : 1944 for online ebook

Annalise says

Molly is just a fun girl trying to do her part to help with world war II.

Teri says

I've heard a lot of great things about the American Girl series--but I am quite disappointed. I REALLY disliked how cliquey and catty the girls in the book were. Isn't this exactly what we'd like our girls NOT to be? I appreciated the historical aspect of it all (this book takes place during WWII) but it doesn't compensate for the lack of good character I was expecting.

Our library has this on audio CD and my girls really loved listening to it--but I'm not going to be too anxious to pick up another one. Bummer.

Kezziah And Books says

As a little girl, I was opposed with American Girl. I still really enjoy the stories. American Girl really got me into reading. I started American Girl when I was 9. I loved them ever since.

Allison Webster says

This set of books belongs to the genre of junior historical fiction.

This set of books describes the life, trials, and lessons learned by young Molly, who is growing up during the times of the second world war. She lives a life with her father fighting the war abroad and her family and herself fighting the war at home.

The areas for critique is characterization. Molly is a young woman growing up in hard times. However throughout her series, she learns many life lessons and grows up a stronger woman. Molly is a character whom students can really identify with. She struggles with the sacrifices she must make for her family and the war effort, making friends and missing her dad. However, in the end she learns valuable lessons.

This book can be integrated into the curriculum in the following ways:

English reading: plot, characterization

History: WWII

Sarah Parker says

loved it

Audrey says

Man, the American Girls Collection was the shit when I was growing up. These books and the Little House books got me hooked on history starting from age seven. The nerding started early. I remember my mother getting pissed off at me because I kept re-reading these books over and over again, cycling through them. As soon as I finished the Felicity books, I would start the Kirsten books. After Kirsten, the Samantha books. After Samantha, Molly. (At the time, there were only four American Girls). Then repeat.

The Molly books (Molly is a 9 year old girl growing up during WWII) were probably the best-written out of the entire American Girls Collection series, with Addy (the runaway slave girl from 1864) coming in second. Though I have to say the Molly doll and accessories were the worst, probably due to Molly's stuff being too contemporary to be appealing.

Rachel says

Molly was my favorite, my baby, my American Girl doll who actually brought me closer to my grandmother and her own experiences of growing up during World War II. When I was a young American Girl, Molly's story was the most contemporary, which made her the most accessible to me (though sometimes, I wished I'd chosen something with a little more of that fantastical, historical feeling!) Molly's life was a lot like mine, actually- her mother worked, she went to school to learn English and Math, she fought off teasing from her sibling, she had girlfriends and wore pants, she felt shy and awkward and out of place a lot. She misses her father, and the easier world that existed before the war and it's rations. All of the stories are dear to me, but I think I have the most bittersweet relationship with book six, "Changes for Molly," where she gets sick, forcing her out of the pageant she worked so hard for, and yet, as she lies all alone at home, a familiar face comes back from war. <3 Damn, it still bothers me that author Valerie Tripp didn't write more of an *interaction* between Molly and her father. But that's one of the literary devices that makes the story so endearing, too.

Natasha says

Of all the American Girl books, Molly's stories were the ones that bridged the generation gap between me and my mom. She and I cried together at *Changes for Molly* and laughed ourselves silly at *Meet Molly*. *Changes for Molly* still brings a tear to my eye with a re-read as a young adult. It probably always will.

Sarah Evans says

To my husband's shock, the boys and I listened to this collection on audio. But she's not too girly and the

boys love stories set in WWII. Not that the boys will be asking for her doll for Christmas or anything.

The writing and stories actually exceeded my expectations. I guess I was being snobby because of the whole doll tie-in and everything. But this is a solid early chapter book series. Molly's character is realistic and matures nicely over the course of the books. While we don't get to know the secondary characters deeply (this is early chapter book land), Molly's relationships with them reveal a variety of experiences and responses to the era. The historical details are nicely folded into the story with a summary of differences between now and then.

Kathryn Herbert says

Molly: An American Girl Doll is a children's historical fiction book written by Valerie Tripp. Tripp, who is best known for her work with the American Girl series, wrote many of the books in the Felicity, Josefine, Kit, Molly, and Samantha series. Growing up in 1944, Molly is a 10 year old girl with a scheming but lovable personality. Molly: An American Girl Doll describes the ups and downs of life and lessons learned by Molly, who is living on the home front during World War Two. With Molly's father being a doctor at war and her mother constantly working at the Red Cross, she misses her family tremendously. While struggling to make sacrifices in order to help her family and the war effort, she ends up learning many valuable life lessons and becomes a stronger woman. Although life is hard for Molly because the whole world is at war, she always makes the best of it. This book is a must for students of all ages because Molly is a character that they can identify with, despite the time difference.

As a child, this story helped me learn a lot about the difficulties of being away from family members during war at such a young age. After re-reading this story, I noticed how Tripp used Molly's story as a connection to what real American families went through during those emotionally exhausting years. Tripp truly captures the reader's eyes because of the small but accurate details of World War Two. For example, Tripp ties in what families would do back home to help support their troops. In order to not buy canned foods since the material could be used for war equipment, families created their own Victory Gardens.

Even after the story of Molly ends, Tripp includes a course mention of World War Two at the back of the book. In particular, this section explains the war into more depth and what life was like during Molly's time. Because Molly's story is still fiction, this section helps children make a connection between the story but more importantly, grasp the historical events that took place in American history. Furthermore, Tripp knows how to make it very informative for children without allowing it to become too dry. In terms of Tripp's illustrations, every page is full of detail and color that add an element to the story line and provide the audience with a more clear mental image of the time period. Because of this, children can visualize a better understanding of what cars, clothes, and homes looked like. Overall, Tripp allows the reader to feel as if they really are apart of the story.

Taylor says

molly M.cintine life is full of change. her dad is at war, and her mom works at the red cross. The whole world is at war, so life is hard for molly. But she makes the best of it. Such as in the first book meet molly, molly and her family doesn't have much money so her halloween costume will have to do with what they already have. in molly learns a lesson, it is mostly about how her and her friends do a secret project for the

schools lend a hand project. in molly's surprise, they face a disappointing christmas. there dad has been off at war in england and there grandparents can't come so it isn't gonna be a very good christmas unless they make the best of it. in happy birthday molly, an English girl comes just in time for molly's birthday. Even though they are different and unique from each other they become best friends. In molly saves the day molly goes to camp gowanogin, where theres singing dancing fun with her friends and much more, also much adventure! In changes for molly her dad is gong to come and molly is really excited because he will be home in time to see her part in miss victory! Hope fully he comes on time and molly can be all ready for him! I LOVE THESE BOOKS! because each one has a unique message!

Sara says

I used this title to review a book my great-grandmother wrote and had published titled, "Just Molly." Her name was Marguerite Nye Bell and the book was published in 1980. You can actually search for it on Amazon and it will list some places you can buy it used. So, it is a real book, even if Goodreads says it isn't. I have had a copy of this book in my possession for most of my life, although I never read it in its entirety until about five or six years ago. I just reread it on the heels of Half-Broke Horses, because I saw a few similarities between my great-grandmother, Molly, and Lily. Both raised during the turn of the century, both "trailblazers" in my mind. I needed to read this book again to refresh my memory, and this time take notes on what I think was a pretty interesting life.

Molly was born in 1888 in Minnesota and is my father's mother's mother. She lived into her nineties and I actually went to her 90th birthday, although I was only four, so I don't have any memory of the party. Molly starts her story with her earliest memory ("flying" down a flight of stairs) and continues on with stories about her siblings and parents. She was a red head and was fortunate enough to go to college to become a teacher. She studied under the "famous" Stella Wood who played a part in bringing Kindergarten to The United States. Molly became close friends with Stella Wood and was ultimately asked to write her biography after she (Stella) passed away. "With Banners" is the first book my great-grandmother wrote and it, too, can be found on Amazon. Molly taught just a year or two until she married, Dwight, whom she was married to for 53 years. They started their family and had seven children, though one passed away as a child. My grandmother, Louise, was the second youngest. The story continues in quite an ordinary way until Molly's first grandchild was born. Molly's daughter complained of the baby kicking off her blankets at night and Molly decided to "invent" something to keep the baby covered. It is hard to picture exactly what she came up with, but it involved snaps and clips for the diapers. Molly continued making the "Nap-Jac" for family and friends and was eventually encouraged to sell it publicly and filled many orders from department stores. She was very careful to research the safety of the product herself and visited many pediatricians and hospitals to show it to professionals and get their approval. She even secured a patent for the invention (I need to do some research on this.) Unfortunately, due to WWII, the factory that was producing the Nap-Jac had to be used for the war effort, and it never saw as much success as it may have had.

Molly's family grew and her children moved out, and some back in, over the years. Her eldest daughter's husband was struck with polio at one point and Molly was actually his main care taker. She worked with him for hours daily, for many months until he regained some use of his legs and he eventually moved to California.

At the age of 67, Molly decided to enter the work force as a secretary. She persevered and was eventually hired by a music company. The owners loved her and she worked there for many years.

When Dwight died in 1964, Molly was worried her children would see her as a burden, so she booked an indefinite trip to Europe. Alone. She booked passage on a Norwegian cargo ship, which welcomed a limited amount of passengers. Molly spent time in Amsterdam and England during her four month stay abroad. She was 76.

On another solo trip to Florida several years later, Molly asked each of her children to write her with some of their childhood memories. Both Molly and Dwight often kept diaries and both kept carbon copies of all of their letters they sent! She had a wonderful written history of her family and decided it was time to organize it all. She was disappointed by the lack of content in the letters her children returned to her with their memories, but she started writing anyway. What it turned into was the story of "an American life." And in the end, a book about the "celebration of freedom in personal relationships." Of course, reading this passage from the last chapter, left me feeling the book was written for me.

"I wondered, after it was rejected by publisher after publisher, if anyone but my children would really find it interesting. I consoled myself by thinking that it might mean something special to my great grandchildren, as a record of what life was like long before their time....After all, I had lived in that ancient period when there were no automobiles and no airplanes--what could be more historic than that in the eyes of today's children?"

Kelley says

We're continuing our road trip tradition of American Girl and Lemony Snicket - a weird but workable combination for our family of listeners.

Molly is a favorite for my 7-year-old daughter. She's listened to this collection so many times that she was constantly telling us when to pay close attention and listen for a favorite or funny part.

I found the stories more endearing than Kit's, but I still didn't love them as much as the Addy stories we listened to first. I'm starting to wonder if that first experience was simply more than I had expected and that it's a matter of the rest of the books turning out to be exactly what I now know they are: less-than-subtle character lessons and well-researched history wrapped in a nice story that's engaging for children.

What I'm missing is some snap. Some less predictable behavior and vocabulary. But what's here is enjoyable for what it is.

I especially liked the relationship between Molly and her brother Ricky, which seemed to be the most lively and realistic of all the family connections. We all got a good laugh out of his expression "like fish you do!" It's going to pop up in conversation for some time, I think.

I also appreciate that while the plots tend to work out for good, it's not always the good you go in expecting. The "trials" the girls face are plausible and the average kid will probably relate. That should mean that when Molly learns a lessons about give and take and not always being the star, those lessons ring true to young readers. And that's not a bad way to end a book.

Kristen says

Molly was my favorite American Girl and she's the only one of the original three who won't be retired by the time Kate turns six (the magic birthday where she gets to pick out an AG doll.) I figured she was the natural girl to start with. At first, Kate and Lexi weren't that interested, it took the whole first book for them to get into it but they got hooked. Kate definitely picked up some residual knowledge of WWII. Happy Birthday, Molly (where Emily comes to stay) was probably their favorite of the six stories.

Molly says

great!

Kayla Dunbar says

All of the American Girl Dolls books are very interesting. They create a different type of book for readers. Each girl has her own story and many different things happen to them. They each have their own trials that they go through. The American Girl Collection gives readers someone that they can relate to. They represent girls from all over. The girl I chose to read in particular was Molly. I chose her because she is from Ohio like I am and I felt I could relate to her. I think that this will come into play for younger readers. Each story is unique for each girl. The books have pictures that help enhance the story. Due to the fact that these books are based in specific time periods, the pictures help tell the story. They help the students understand the differences of then and now. I really enjoyed these books and I think that many readers will enjoy them as well.

Libby says

I got this series intending to read it out loud to my 4-year old daughter, but my 6-year old son loved listening to it as well! (and I didn't mind reading it, unlike Magic Treehouse books. The dialogue is sooo annoying in those...) I was really surprised that he would enjoy them beforehand, but after reading it, it's not overtly "girly", despite being for "american girls". We are going to read the Felicity series next and he is looking forward to it just as much as she is. I think it's a great introduction to WWII for young kids. I wish there was more great historical fiction engaging for young, young kids. I didn't realize there were other "Molly books" until I searched for this series on goodreads. I wouldn't mind checking out some of the others as well.

Maggie Wiggins says

I had the Molly doll growing up, but more because of her glasses than because of her era. I enjoyed Tripp's depiction of a large family (or what I thought of as a big family; I'm an only child), as well as how modern the setting was. She was most relatable to me because I thought of her as possibly a potential older relative. She and I both had modern appliances! We both had wire framed glasses and electricity! It's the little things here, people.

Readalikes: Dear America Series, American Sisters series by Laurie Lawlor, Millie Cooper 3B by Charlotte Herman

Bianca Nabarrete-Lopez says

Molly is a girl living in Illinois with her family during WW2. She has to face many issues such as her dad being off in the war, rations, housing a English refugee, and many complicating morals about fighting.

My favorite part was the ending when Molly's dad finally comes back home. It was more bittersweet than I expected. I really expected that Molly would be participating in the Veterans Thank You Show but it was a better twist in that she had to stay home sick but got to be first one to welcome her dad home. But it was sad in that many of her friends weren't so lucky, one of her friend's dad came back without his legs, while a neighbor and teacher lost loved ones.

I think this book really made me appreciate more our people fighting overseas, or just encourage me to help our countries affected by feuds, Americans are very lucky to not face atrocities. I think many people are right to believe after WW2 and the creation of bomb that war should never happen again, although that hasn't been very successful in preventing others, and I don't know what much can be done to stop them, but the least I could do is still try to support those fighting, even if it's through something small like making one blanket or collecting tin.

Megan says

Actual rating: 4.5 stars
