

PATRICIA REILLY GIFF

A  
Newbery  
Honor  
Book

*Lily's Crossing*

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

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# Vocabulary



Use a dictionary to match the meanings with the words.

1. \_\_\_\_ a structure over the entrance to a theatre, where current shows are advertised
2. \_\_\_\_ a concrete or steel-reinforced, low structure for housing guns
3. \_\_\_\_ groups of ships that cross the oceans together for increased protection
4. \_\_\_\_ a tomboy; a bold, unruly girl
5. \_\_\_\_ ships equipped with large tanks in which to carry oil or other liquids
6. \_\_\_\_ followers of Adolf Hitler, who believed in racial supremacy, war, and genocide
7. \_\_\_\_ a musical composition written to encourage practice of a specific technique
8. \_\_\_\_ an elevated wooden walkway along a beach or seafront
9. \_\_\_\_ a long bridge supported by piers, designed to carry a road or a train over water
10. \_\_\_\_ concealing lights that might otherwise be visible to an enemy, especially from the air
11. \_\_\_\_ ships with expansive decks for carrying, launching, and landing aircraft
12. \_\_\_\_ fast-moving, easy-to-turn warships armed with large guns and other weapons
13. \_\_\_\_ small, fast ships powered by engines, usually of the Coast Guard for coastal patrols
14. \_\_\_\_ saltwater shellfish that attach to piers, boats, rocks, marine mammals, etc.
15. \_\_\_\_ a set share or portion allowed of a commodity or product that is scarce



## WORD CHOICES

convoy

marquee

barnacles

carriers

étude

blackout

boardwalk

ration

viaduct

destroyers

cutters

hoyden

pillboxes

tankers

Nazis

# Comprehension Questions by Chapter

Questions with an \* (asterisk) are designed to encourage the reading skill of making inferences, or arriving at conclusions by using reasoning skills, by thinking about facts, information, or evidence presented in the reading materials. Questions 18 and 20 focus on the literary concept of poetic justice.



## Chapter 1

We find Lily's first lie and see how it changes her summer. What was it, and what unwanted consequence does it have?

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## Chapter 2

Lily is trying to conceal something from Gram. What is it? Why doesn't she want to share it?



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## Chapter 3

Lily promises not to reveal Margaret's secret. Why is her promise unbelievable?

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What are the 3½ presents that Lily receives for her birthday?

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## Chapter 4

Why does Lily bring a star from her bedroom ceiling in St. Albans to Rockaway?

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# Comprehension Questions by Chapter



*\*What does Lily do that is like a spy, and why might she be so interested in spying?*

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## Chapter 5

Poppy, like Eddie Dillon, is going to Europe. How does he expect his duty to differ from Eddie's?

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## Chapter 6

Lily tries to pretend that Poppy's departure doesn't bother her. How do we know this isn't true?

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## Chapter 7

What does Lily do for Albert that reveals her compassionate side?



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## Chapter 8

Why is Lily embarrassed to go to dinner at the Orbans' house?

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## Chapter 9

Why doesn't Lily simply wait at home for the anticipated letter from Poppy?

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# Comprehension Questions by Chapter

## Chapter 10

Why is Lily so disappointed when Albert volunteers to be the sole caregiver of the kitten?

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## Chapter 11

What lie has Lily told Albert, and what are the consequences?

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## Chapter 12

*\*Why are “Albert’s blue eyes swimming in tears” after he and Lily sneak into the movies?*

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## Chapter 13

What bothers Lily most about her mother being dead?

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Why does Albert question whether his parents loved him and Ruth?

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## Chapter 14

What is Albert’s objective in learning to swim?

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# Comprehension Questions by Chapter

## Chapter 15

What bad news does Lily get in each of her letters?

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## Chapter 16

Albert offers Lily money to send Eddie's picture to Margaret. From whom did he get it?

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## Chapter 17

What piano piece does Lily play for Albert, and why does she choose this piece?

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## Chapter 18

*\*How is there **poetic justice** in Albert's discovery as he removes the money from the coat?*

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## Chapter 19

*\*Why does Lily include the Dillons' house key in her package to Margaret?*

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# Comprehension Questions by Chapter

## Chapter 20

*\* Gram extends an act of kindness to Margaret and it comes back to her through Lily. Describe these acts of poetic justice.*

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## Chapter 21

Lily and Albert share their different motives for lying. What are they?

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## Chapter 22

Why does Albert feel he has betrayed Ruth and Nagymamma?

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What mutual promises do Albert and Lily make?

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## Chapter 23

What promise of Poppy's does Lily recall?

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# Comprehension Questions by Chapter

## Chapter 24

How does Poppy keep his promise to Lily?

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## Chapter 25

What event in World War II do Albert and Lily witness at the movies?

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## Chapter 26

What guilt do Ruth and Lily share?

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## Chapter 27

*\*Why don't Gram and Lily disagree with Poppy when he says, "The same . . . I told you. It's all the same," as they return to Rockaway?*

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## Chapter 28

Is Gram right when she says, ". . . sometimes, even in the worst times, something lovely happens"?

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# Teacher's Page

## *Lily's Crossing* Vocabulary:

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|--------------|----------------|
| 1. marquee   | 9. viaduct     |
| 2. pillboxes | 10. blackout   |
| 3. convoy    | 11. carriers   |
| 4. hoyden    | 12. destroyers |
| 5. tankers   | 13. cutters    |
| 6. Nazis     | 14. barnacles  |
| 7. étude     | 15. ration     |
| 8. boardwalk |                |

*As a follow-up activity, have students search for and record the words in sentences as they read. These words also lend themselves readily to illustrations which can be added to the sentences for visual learners. Lastly, students should be encouraged to write sentences using the words.*

## **Building background information:**

To prepare students for an understanding of the global events influencing what was happening to the characters, have students research and construct a timeline from June 1944–June 1945. Or you may ask them to locate the following places on a map and research the roles of these places in WWII: *Brooklyn Navy Yard; Willow Run in Detroit; Normandy; Fort Dix; Budapest; Paris*. To provide more insights into what was happening on the home front, visit *What Did You Do in the War, Grandma?*, a Web site constructed by honors English students at South Kingstown High School regarding oral history of women in Rhode Island during the war. It is [http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/WWII\\_Women/Everybody'sWar.html](http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/WWII_Women/Everybody'sWar.html).

An excellent site for building test-to-world connections is one which focuses on London during World War II. It tells about relocation of the children, rationing, propaganda campaigns, and aspects of daily life of the children.

It is <http://home.freeuk.net/elloughton13/wwar.htm>.

## Teacher's Page

You may wish to invite a guest or a group of guests who lived through World War II to be interviewed by your students. Provide a lesson on how to ask appropriate and sensitive questions, formulate the questions, write the invitations (don't forget to invite your guests to bring pictures and souvenirs), solicit volunteers to drive guests who do not drive, get the camera and film ready, solicit refreshments, and let the students discover the joy of learning history from those who have lived it.

### **Writing prompts:**

1. In Chapter 24, Gram gives Albert a wonderful gift, the assurance that his parents loved him. According to Gram, what are the two priorities parents have for their children? How did Albert's parents demonstrate these? How did Poppy? Describe what you believe it takes to be a good parent?
2. Describe a time when you were experiencing great difficulty (during an illness, a separation, a move, after an accident or death of a pet or a person you loved) but, despite the difficulty of that time, "something lovely happened." If you have not had such an experience, interview an older person, tell them Lily's story, and ask them to describe a similar event in their life, and write about it.

# Comprehension Questions by Chapter

## Chapter 1

We find Lily's first lie and see how it changes her summer. What was it, and what unwanted consequence does it have?

Answer:

Lily tells Poppy that she'll miss her piano practice over the summer. Poppy hires a truck and has the piano transported to Rockaway for her, so she'll have to continue practicing.

## Chapter 2

Lily is trying to conceal something from Gram. What is it? Why doesn't she want to share it?

Answer:

She conceals her report card because she has a "D" in music and she doesn't want her Gram to see it, especially since she has told her that she loves music.

## Chapter 3

Lily promises not to reveal Margaret's secret. Why is her promise unbelievable?

Answer:

Lily's promise is unbelievable because she swears on her Aunt Celia's life, but her Aunt Celia is not a spy in Berlin, as she has told Margaret.

What are the 3½ presents that Lily receives for her birthday?

Answer:

Her 3½ presents are two books, half a Milky Way candy bar, and the key to Margaret's family's summer home.

## Chapter 4

Why does Lily bring a star from her bedroom ceiling in St. Albans to Rockaway?

Answer:

Lily brings a star from her bedroom ceiling in St. Albans to Rockaway because the stars had been put on Lily's ceiling by her mother, who died. Bringing the star is like bringing her mother with her.

# Comprehension Questions by Chapter



*\*What does Lily do that is like a spy, and why might she be so interested in spying?*

Answer:

Lily acts like a spy when she sneaks to the Orban's in a rowboat and spies through the window. She may have learned about spying from the World War II newsreels and headlines, in the theatre and newspaper, respectively.

## Chapter 5

Poppy, like Eddie Dillon, is going to Europe. How does he expect his duty to differ from Eddie's?

Answer:

Poppy believes his duty in Europe will be different because he is an engineer and he believes he will be involved in rebuilding Europe, unlike Eddie, who is engaged in combat.

## Chapter 6

Lily tries to pretend that Poppy's departure doesn't bother her. How do we know this isn't true?

Answer:

We know Lily does care about Poppy leaving because she runs to the viaduct to wave good-bye to him and continues until the train is far away.

## Chapter 7

What does Lily do for Albert that reveals her compassionate side?

Answer:

Lily reveals her compassionate side when she reaches out to Albert as he is frightened by the plane flying overhead and assures him that it is not an enemy plane.

## Chapter 8

Why is Lily embarrassed to go to dinner at the Orbans' house?

Answer:

Lily is embarrassed to go to the Orbans' house because Albert saw her when she was looking through the Orbans' window, spying on them soon after his arrival there.

# Comprehension Questions by Chapter

## Chapter 9

Why doesn't Lily simply wait at home for the anticipated letter from Poppy?

Answer:

Lily doesn't wait for the mailman to deliver the letter from Poppy to her home because she does not want Gram to read over her shoulder as she reads her letter. She wants Poppy all to herself for a moment.

## Chapter 10

Why is Lily so disappointed when Albert volunteers to be the sole caregiver of the kitten?

Answer:

Lily is disappointed when Albert volunteers to be the sole caregiver of the kitten because she had hoped he would want to be her friend and spend time with her.

## Chapter 11

What lie has Lily told Albert and what are the consequences?

Answer:

Lily has told Albert that she can row out to see the convoys of ships heading to Europe from the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Albert asks her to row him out that very evening. It is really a very great distance, beyond Lily's ability, and unsafe.

## Chapter 12

*\*Why are "Albert's blue eyes swimming in tears" after he and Lily sneak into the movies?*

Answer:

Albert's "blue eyes" are "swimming in tears" because the movie showed a ship like the one Albert crossed the ocean on and it reminded him of the trip across the Atlantic and of having to leave Ruth behind.

# Comprehension Questions by Chapter

## Chapter 13

What bothers Lily most about her mother being dead?

Answer:

What bothers Lily most about her mother being dead is that she can't remember her, especially her voice.

Why does Albert question whether his parents loved him and Ruth?

Answer:

Albert questions whether his parents loved him and Ruth because of the nature of their work. Preparing a newspaper which spoke against the Nazis put them at risk. Albert believes that means they thought the newspaper was more important than they were.

## Chapter 14

What is Albert's objective in learning to swim?

Answer:

Albert's objective in learning to swim is to be able to swim from Lily's rowboat to a troop ship, sneak aboard, and go to Europe to find Ruth.

## Chapter 15

What bad news does Lily get in each of her letters?

Answer:

In her letter from Poppy, Lily learns that Poppy has been shipped off to Europe. In her letter from Margaret, she learns that Eddie has been listed as missing in action after being a part of the D-Day invasion.

## Chapter 16

Albert offers Lily money to send Eddie's picture to Margaret. From whom did he get it?

Answer:

Albert got the money he is offering to Lily from his grandmother, who sewed it into his coat before he left Budapest.

# Comprehension Questions by Chapter

## Chapter 17

What piano piece does Lily play for Albert and why does she choose this piece?

Answer:

Lily chooses *The Blue Danube* to play for Albert because the Danube runs through Albert's hometown of Budapest.

## Chapter 18

*\*How is there poetic justice in Albert's discovery as he removes the money from the coat?*

Answer:

As Albert removes the money from his coat to be able to send the picture of Eddie to Margaret, he finds the picture of himself, Ruth, and Nagymamma. By trying to allow Lily's friend to remember the face of someone she has been separated from, he has been given the same gift — a glimpse at the faces of those he loves and from whom he has been separated.

## Chapter 19

*\* Why does Lily include the Dillons' house key in her package to Margaret?*

Answer:

Lily includes the house key with her package to Margaret because the house is full of sad memories of Eddie and the sorrow she feels for Margaret.

## Chapter 20

*\* Gram extends an act of kindness to Margaret and it comes back to her through Lily. Describe these acts of poetic justice.*

Answer:

Gram sent Margaret a picture of Eddie and shared stories about him with her in her letter. Lily sees that Gram misses Poppy, just as she does. And she shares with Gram a letter from Poppy and memories of Poppy. By showing a kindness to Margaret, Gram models compassion and kindness to Lily, who, in turn, shows kindness to her grandmother.

# Comprehension Questions by Chapter

## Chapter 21

Lily and Albert share their different motives for lying. What are they?

Answer:

Lily reveals to Albert that she lies because she feels guilty for not saying good-bye to Poppy, and Albert says he lies because he's afraid.

## Chapter 22

Why does Albert feel he has betrayed Ruth and Nagymamma?

Answer:

Albert feels that he betrayed Ruth and Nagymamma because he had closed his eyes when Ruth was taken away, pretending he didn't know she would be left behind as he went to America and safety.

What mutual promises do Albert and Lily make?

Answer:

Lily and Albert share mutual promises to tell the truth and to be brave.

## Chapter 23

What promise of Poppy's does Lily recall?

Answer:

Lily recalls Poppy's promise that he will let her know where he has been sent.

## Chapter 24

How does Poppy keep his promise to Lily?

Answer:

Poppy keeps his promise by asking Lily to read a non-existent book called *The Promise*, to remind her of his promise to her, and by asking her to read books which are all set in France.

# Comprehension Questions by Chapter

## Chapter 25

What event in World War II do Albert and Lily witness at the movies?

Answer:

At the movies, Albert and Lily see the liberation of Paris.

## Chapter 26

What guilt do Ruth and Lily share?

Answer:

Ruth and Lily have both felt guilty about not saying good-bye to their loved ones as they were separated by the events of the war.

## Chapter 27

*\*Why don't Gram and Lily disagree with Poppy when he says, "The same . . . I told you. It's all the same," as they return to Rockaway?*

Answer:

Gram and Lily keep silent when Poppy tries to tell them that nothing has changed as they return to Rockaway because they realize that he was willing to go to war to keep things the same for them, to keep them happy and healthy. To disagree with Poppy would have taken away from the sacrifice he had made for them, because he wants to believe they had been protected from pain while he was away in the war. Like him, they want to protect the ones they love.

## Chapter 28

Is Gram right when she says, ". . . sometimes, even in the worst times, something lovely happens"?

Answer:

Gram seems to be right, at least regarding Lily, when she says, ". . . sometimes, even in the worst times, something lovely happens." Even though there has been a terrible war, Lily has found and been reunited with her best friend.