

## **Core Curriculum Guide: Mira's Diary: Bombs Over London by Marissa Moss**

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**Mentor Text for: Plot development, Research, Activating Background Knowledge, Making Connections, Expository, Personal Narrative**

### **Research to Build and Present Knowledge:**

Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of a topic:

Read Mira's Diary as if it's a primary source, take notes, gather relevant information, categorize and list the information.

### **Suggested topics:**

#### **Women's Rights:**

What were the suffragists demanding from the British government? From the American government?

Were their demands reasonable? Why or why not?

What methods did different groups use to get their demands met? Did some use violent methods? Were they right to use the methods they did? Why or why not?

What reasons did the government give for denying women the right to vote? Did they have good reasons?

Can you think of other groups who have been denied the right to vote? Do you agree that they shouldn't be able to vote? Explain your reasons.

#### **Isolationism vs. Involvement:**

Many people felt the United States shouldn't enter WWI since the conflict was taking place overseas.

Make a list of reasons the Americans should enter the war and why they shouldn't. Then argue for which list you find is strongest.

Is there such a thing as a "good" war? If so, what makes a war "good?" Was WWI a good war?

#### **The Zimmerman Telegram:**

What was the Zimmerman Telegram? Explain why it was important?

The British deciphered the Zimmerman Telegram and felt it was important to share with the Americans.

Do you agree that the United States needed to know? Why or why not?

If you were the U.S. President and read about the Zimmerman Telegram, what would you do? Explain your reasons.

#### **Art & Culture:**

Many of the writers and artists Mira meets are real people. Some of the writers, like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, tried to influence the government in how it carried out the war. How was Conan Doyle involved in WWI? Did he use his status as a writer to make a difference? How?

Sylvia and Emmeline Pankhurst both wrote books about their ideas and political positions. What effect did their writing have? Was it important for them to write? Compare their kind of writing to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's or H.G. Wells' work.

Read a short story by Conan Doyle, Beatrix Potter, or H.G. Wells and imitate their style in your own story.

#### **Writing Prompts:**

Write about a time in your life when you weren't sure what to do but had to make a decision based on evidence presented to you. How did you decide what was the right thing to do? Did you find out later

whether you were right or wrong?

How do you decide what is morally good or bad? Give an example of how you thought something was right (or wrong), but later realized the opposite was true.

Is there something you would fight for? Go to prison for? What values do you think are so important you would risk your own personal safety and freedom to fight for them?

**Topics Covered:** History, WWI, Woman's Suffrage, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Beatrix Potter, British Intelligence, Code-cracking, Zeppelin bombing raids, Sabotage.