

# Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot

A TRUE STORY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT AND THE CANDY THAT DROPPED FROM THE SKY

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** History, Kindness, Communication

**Book Brief:** This book shares the amazing true story of an American pilot who dropped mini-parachutes of chocolate for the children of West Berlin during the Berlin Airlift after World War II.

**Author:** Margot Theis Raven

**Illustrator:**

Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen

**Content**

**Connections:** Social Studies, Science



## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Why is the little girl on the cover looking up toward the sky? What do students think the title might mean?

**The Pictures:** Flip briefly through the pictures. What

are students able to tell about the state of life in West Berlin during 1948?

**Prior Knowledge:** What do students know about World War II? When was it? Which countries were involved? Show students a map of Germany. Explain how the country was divided after World War II, focusing on the capital, Berlin. Read the foreword in the book to provide students with background information about the Berlin Airlift.

**Vocabulary:** Allies, corridors, Frau (Mrs.), liebchen (sweetheart)

**Purpose for Reading:** As we read, think about the impact one person can have on many. Is it possible for one person to affect an entire country?

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What has happened to Mercedes's town?
- ◆ Why would candy be a luxury?
- ◆ How had the war changed life for Mercedes and her family?

- ◆ Why did the pilot decide to drop the candy?
- ◆ What made Mercedes's letter stand out?
- ◆ How did Mercedes feel when she received the package?
- ◆ Is this story fact or fiction? How do you know?

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** How was one person able to affect so many?

**Extending Our Thinking:** Can you think of other people whose actions or decisions have changed the lives of a lot of people? Have you ever done something that either helped or hurt a lot of people? How did that experience make you feel? Why are random acts of kindness important? With a partner, think of at least three different things you could do every day to help make other people's lives better.

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is Fundamental