

Gertie The Darling Duck of WWII

By: Shari Swanson

Illustrated: Renee Graef

Synopsis: In 1945, against the backdrop of WWII, a soon-to-be-mama duck builds a nest in a precarious spot in the city of Milwaukee. Soon, news outlets around the world are carrying the hopeful story of the plucky duck.

Suggested Reading Date: November 11th (Veteran's Day), January 19th (National Duck Day), May 26th (Memorial Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Read and share the "More to the Story" section for additional information about Gertie, her story, and the sculptures of her and her ducklings on the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Share/discuss photographs of Gertie and her story.
- Share/discuss photographs of the sculptures of Gertie and her ducklings.
- Research animal heroes.
- Research animal war heroes.
- Learn about life for children and families during World War II.

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <https://www.shariswanson.com>
- Illustrator Website: <https://www.graefillustration.com>
- Video - Milwaukee's Most Famous Duck, Gertie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWjtn3E0cM4>
- Article and 16 photographs: <https://www.jsonline.com/story/life/green-sheet/2020/04/22/gertie-duck-milwaukee-found-hope-75-years-ago-during-world-war-ii/2889565001/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Rags: Hero Dog of WWII* by Margot Theis Raven
- *Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of a Little Horse Who Became a Hero* by Patricia McCormick
- *Stubby the Dog Soldier: World War I Hero* by Blake Hoena
- *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey

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