

Liberty University

From the Selected Works of Rachel Schwedt

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One thousand tracings

Rachel Schwedt



Available at: https://works.bepress.com/rachel_schwedt/54/

Judge, Lita, author and illustrator. *One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II*. Hyperion Books for Children, 2007. ISBN: 9781423100089

Description:

After finding a box of old letters filled with foot tracings, Lita Judge was inspired to write *One Thousand Tracings*, the story of a grand relief effort launched by her grandparents Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom after World War II. Happy that the war was finally over, they were saddened to receive a letter from friends in Germany describing their desperate living conditions. In the letter was the tracing of a foot with a request for a pair of shoes. Their friends were taking turns wearing one pair of shoes when they needed to leave the house. Touched by this need, the Hamerstoms packed a box with shoes, warm clothing and food. As news of their generosity spread letters began to arrive with tracings of people's feet with each tracing representing someone who had no shoes. In response to these letters and with the help of friends and neighbors over 3,000 care packages containing shoes and warm clothing were sent to needy families across Europe by the end of 1948. As a result of the Hamerstrom's efforts, many lasting friendships were formed between those who gave and those who received. Included throughout the book are pictures of the actual foot-tracings as well as the letters and photos sent from grateful families. The author/illustrator's warm watercolor illustrations lend a nostalgic feel to the pages.

Critique:

In *One Thousand Tracings*, Lita Judge shares a warm and touching story of the generosity of her grandparents after World War II. This is a redemptive story of people reaching out to meet the needs of those who had once been their enemies. It showcases the qualities of compassion, forgiveness, and generosity toward others while giving an excellent example of what one family can do to alleviate the suffering of others. Double-spread illustrations alternate with full-page paintings done in a warm color palette. End pages are a collage of foot tracings, letters, and photographs collected between the years 1946 – 1948. This first picture book offering from Judge is a clear winner. Mrs. Judge has created a web site <http://tracings.litajudge.com> with copies of letters, pictures, and a discussion guide to enrich the reader's experience. This story makes compassion understandable to children in a very practical way but it will touch the hearts of adults as well.

Awards: ALA Notable Children's Book Award, Cybils Award Finalist for Nonfiction Picture Books, IRA Children's and Young Adult's Book Award, Michigan Notable Book, NAPPA Gold Medal, New York Public Library 100 Books for Reading and Sharing.

Related Subjects: Europe, Germany, Mother-daughter relationships, Poverty, Refugees, War, World War II

Character Themes: Caring, Compassion, Empathy, Generosity, Giving, Initiative, Sacrifice, Sharing, Unselfishness