

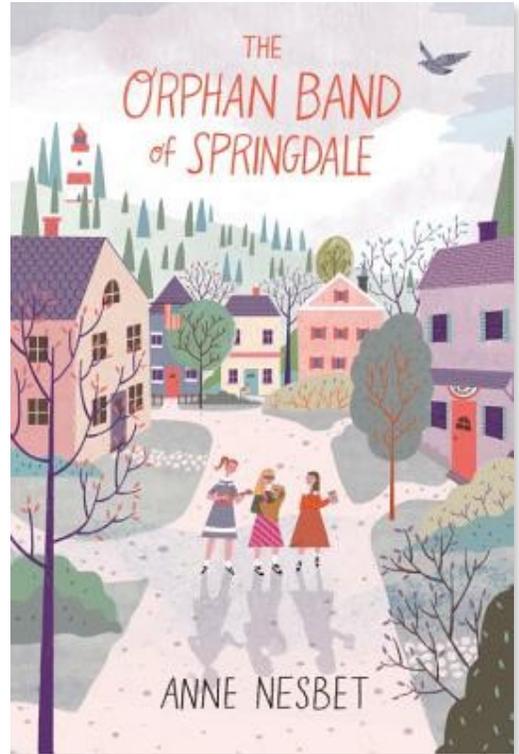
The Orphan Band of Springdale:

Educators Guide: History Through Primary Sources

About the Book

The Orphan Band of Springdale
by Anne Nesbet
Published by Candlewick Press
ISBN-13: 9780763688042
Age Range: 10 - 14 Years

It's 1941, and tensions are rising in the United States as the Second World War rages in Europe. Eleven-year-old Gusta's life, like the world around her, is about to change. Her father, a foreign-born labor organizer, has fled the country, and Gusta has been sent to live in an orphanage run by her grandmother. Nearsighted, snaggletoothed Gusta arrives in Springdale, Maine, lugging her one precious possession: a beloved old French horn, her sole memento of her father. But in a family that's long on troubles and short on money, how can a girl hang on to something so valuable and yet so useless when Gusta's mill-worker uncle needs surgery to fix his mangled hand? Inspired by her mother's fanciful stories, Gusta secretly hopes to find the coin-like "Wish" that her sea-captain grandfather supposedly left hidden. Meanwhile, even as Gusta gets to know the rambunctious orphans at the home, she feels like an outsider — and finds herself facing patriotism turned to prejudice, alien registration drives, and a family secret likely to turn the small town upside down.



“In this uplifting, multifaceted historical novel set in 1941, Nesbet (*Cloud and Wallfish*) creates an arrestingly strong and sympathetic character in nearsighted 11-year-old Augusta “Gusta” Hoopes Neubronner...Nesbet deftly weaves disparate elements—music, orphans, labor unions, carrier pigeons, and a magic wish—into a richly developed story set during a pivotal era in American history.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“The narrative style is deeply satisfying: unexpected flourishes of drollery grace the text; the theme of Gusta’s new spectacles-enhanced vision gracefully serves as plot point and metaphor; and an examination of folkloric Wishes respects both believers and doubters. Sometimes kids just need a book to cozy up with in an overstuffed chair, a secluded treehouse, or a nest of pillows. This is exactly that book.” —*BCCB* (starred review)

“The dialogue is catchy, and Gusta’s internal monologues share her tremendous curiosity and friendliness with readers. This is a good pairing for Kimberly Brubaker Bradley’s *The War that Saved My Life*, both for the time period and its sense of pathos...Solid historical fiction with a memorable heroine.” —*School Library Journal*

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The Role of Advertising in 1941

In *The Orphan Band of Springdale* (Candlewick Press) one of the characters, a girl named Molly Gowen, is so proud of her family dairy, "Sharp's Ridge," that she brings it up in class all the time. That leads to a conversation with the teacher about advertising:

What she heard now was Miss Hatch saying very kindly, "Molly, dear, I'm sure you will write an excellent theme! But do remember that your contributions to our classroom discussion do not always have to be advertisements."

Oh, but it would take more than a mild hint like that to shut down Molly Gowen. Molly paused for only a millisecond—Gusta's pencil hovered above the long-division problem, waiting in some suspense—and then Molly said, "Miss Hatch advertising is patriotic—they just said so in the newspaper. My father read it aloud to us: 'Especially now when the world is so full of—' What did they say? 'Misery,' I think—'Especially when the world is so full of misery, it's good to get pleasant news that comes in ads!' They said that *in the paper* Miss Hatch!"
—*The Orphan Band of Springdale*

Here is the actual item in the *Sanford Tribune* (in 1941) that inspired this scene in the book!

What makes advertising "Good News," according to this ad? Do you agree or disagree? Why? What is the role of advertising today?

Advertisements can tell us a lot about the past. On the next page there are some advertisements for milk from the *Sanford Tribune* (a local paper in Maine) in 1941.

Look closely at each ad: what ideas is it trying to associate with "milk"? What can you learn about life in Maine in 1941 from these advertisements?

7.00 — Champion Club grammar school tourney. Thursday 7.30—Start doubleheader ending third round league.

TO LET
EMENT, 4 rooms and bath, finished. Apply 66½ School Street.
MS. Apply 5 Bodwell St. Sanford. 11-1t-pd

WANTED
AN OR GIRL to do housework, plain cooking, small family, references required. Write Box N c/o Tribune. 11-1t

with car for profitable Rawley Route. Must be satisfied with good living at start. Write Leigh's Dept. MEC-125-1011, Albany, N. Y. or see C. W. Leane, Kennebunk, Me. Route 1. 11-1t-pd

INGS to do at home, by Alphonse Angers. Inquire Weeman St., Springvale. 11-1t-pd.1

LOST
BILLFOLD, Mar. 11 between Lovell's pharmacy and 11 Square. Finder please return to Tribune Office. Liberal 11-1tpd

FURNITURE SALE
rber Chairs
p. Electric Motor
leighs
-Ft. Pung
uggy, Special 55.00

Advertising IS Good News
Specially now, when the world is so full of strife, misery and anxiety, it's good to be able to get the pleasant news that comes in the ads.
About a light-hearted summer tubban... sportswear coolly stolen from the men... a refreshing hot weather beverage...
A pipe that promises a smoke-treat... a light straw hat for the steaming brow...
The ads are reminders that life can't all be woe... reminders to be as normal and comfortable as possible... reminders to which you can sensibly respond. For the ads lead you to sound values.
Courtesy Nation's Business

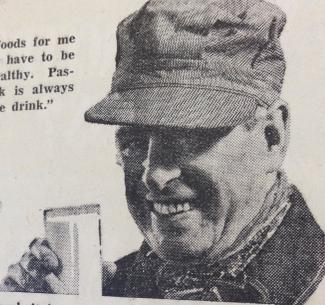
3rd Annual
(Continued from Page 1)
the Hochamock Ski Club Portland and the Ossipee Club of Ossipee, N. H. Bauneg Beg club. Anticipated that these groups have representatives in the contest.
President Arnold St. the Bauneg Beg Ski Club day emphasized, how skiers belonging to organized groups and skiers will be welcome to them. They will be eligible for serious awards, he asserted.
Features
Features of the skibee: Closed contest for Beg Ski Club Championship usual combined downhill event for Trophy, and open invitation in which will first three places in will be presented awards and the out-gaining the most points presented a permanent trophy.
Tow charges during day will be reduced; of the individual contest fee will be reduced the contestant turns competitor's set of numbers. The only rule for women is that the carnival committee announced that entries

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A.

ENGINEERS MUST BE ALERT
---AND ON THE JOB---

"No heavy foods for me
lunchtime: I have to be
alert and healthy. Pas-
teurized milk is always
my lunchtime drink."



Men whose work it is to convey human cargo over the
railways of the country can't risk after-eating drowsi-
ness! That's why a simple main dish, with milk for
the beverage, is the choice of most engineers. Because
your job demands your wide-awakeness—ask for our
pasteurized, health-giving milk . . .

SHAW'S RIDGE FARM
Tel. 76-R

B.

A Clean Bill of
Health!

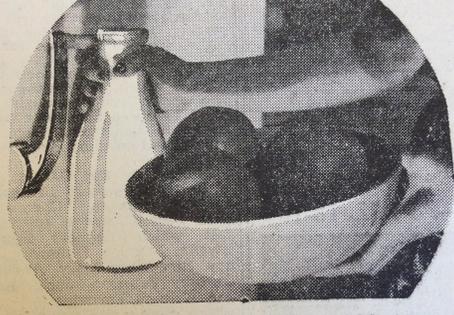


Your child's doctor will be able to
give you a better report on her
health and development . . . when
you see to it that she has at least
a pint—preferably a quart—of pas-
teurized milk each day. Our route
man will deliver to your door.

Sanford Dairy
PASTEURIZED MILK
17½ BENNETT ST.—TEL. 201—SANFORD, ME.

C.

MILK is our house-
hold standby



Housewives who guard their family's health, serve milk at
every meal—as a beverage, and in cooked foods. Our
pasteurized, rich-in-cream milk is an economical way to
provide your family with precious vitamins daily . . .

TELEPHONE 76-R
Shaw's Ridge Farm

D.

Get on the **HEALTH** Bandwagon



FEEL fit—to beat the band—with plenty of health
gained from vitamin-full pasteurized milk. From healthy
cows, milked under the most sanitary conditions, the
milk we sell you offers every benefit—plus full bodied
taste, and economy price.

Tel. 76-R
Shaw's Ridge Farm
PASTEURIZED MILK

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What Did "Modern" Mean in the 1940's?

The *Orphan Band of Springdale* (Candlewick Press) is set in American during the 1940's. This was an era that prided itself in being "modern." Here are some examples of articles and ads from that time period. What does each example tell us about what was considered "modern" at that time? (What is particularly "modern" in your world today? Do you think that thing will still seem modern in 70 years or so?)

Example 1: Advertisement for a "Cooking School"

What is the new technology this "Cooking School" wants to inform people about?

Attend the Modern Electric

Cooking SCHOOL

Monday Night MAY 5 at 7.30 o'clock

Sanford TOWN HALL



MRS. MADELINE F. HANLEY, director HOME SERVICE DEPARTMENT



ESTHER MAYBURY



MILDRED N. HAGLUND

NEW FREE MENUS AND RECIPES
MANY VALUABLE PRIZES

DON'T MISS THIS SPRING SERIES of modern electric cooking sessions. You'll be delighted with the many attractive and appetizing new recipes and menus to be presented and demonstrated. Demonstrations include Complete Oven Meals . . . Surface Cooking . . . Thrift Cooker Dishes . . . Broiling . . . and many useful Home Hints are interspersed with the cooking program.

OVER 1,000,000 WOMEN NOW OWN Hotpoint Electric Ranges, over 3,000,000 women now cook electrically in America. There's a reason! If you want **ECONOMY** . . . cook electrically! If you want **COMFORT** . . . cook electrically! If you want **CONVENIENCE** and **SURE RESULTS** . . . cook electrically! Ask your neighbor who now has a Hotpoint electric range . . . in the meantime . . . attend this Spring Cooking School.

CONDUCTED BY: HOME SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Cumberland County Power & Light Co.

COMPLETE YORK COUNTY SCHEDULE OF

Cooking Schools

SANFORD, MAY 5
Town Hall

SO. BERWICK, MAY 6
Park Theater

BIDDEFORD, MAY 8
St. Joseph's Parish House

YORK VILLAGE, MAY 9
Woman's League Hall

SACO, MAY 12
American Legion Hall

ATTEND THE SESSION NEAREST YOU

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Example 2: New luncheonette opened in Sanford, Maine, in May 1941
What makes it so "modern," according to this article?

THE SANFORD TRIBUNE AND ADVOCATE PAGE ELEVEN

SHALIT OPENS TODAY



Shalit's Fountain And Luncheonette Complete, Modern

Department Managed By Kenneth Johnson Equipped For Prompt Service, Cheerfulness Is Watchword

The ultra-modern new soda fountain and luncheonette department in the new Shalit Walgreen agency, managed by Kenneth Johnson, is equipped for serving customers delicious food and drink promptly and under the most sanitary conditions.

Extending from the wall and occupying the full length of the store, the streamlined soda fountain and luncheonette department is fitted out in stainless steel. All equipment is approved by the State Health Department.

The backbar is entirely of stainless steel, as are the fountain, refrigeration equipment and sandwich unit.

Breakfasts and sandwiches are offered.

Mirrors add to the attractiveness of the department, which is finished in bright colors. The booths, ingeniously arranged, provide comfortable seating. These booths are green with table tops of black bakelite.

Alert and experienced soda dispensers are prepared to serve any kind of fountain drink or ice cream order. Neat signs illustrate specials of the fountain and the luncheonette department. Customers in the booths will be waited on and served with a minimum delay.

Cleanliness and sanitation are stressed, and cheerfulness will be the watchword, it was stated by the management.

Shalit's Dream

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Walgreen Lab Tour Reveals Color Aplenty

Chicago Plant Produces More Than 1,300 Nationally Known Drug And Toiletory Products

From the heart of Chicago's modern central manufacturing district stands a huge building of brick, concrete and steel. Great windows and skylight bring sunshine to its busy interior.

This large building is the laboratory wherein are produced more than 1,300 national known drug and toiletory products. It is a proving ground where all of them must demonstrate their merit before they are offered to the public.

During the past few years thousands of visitors in Chicago have toured the Walgreen laboratory and have come away amazed at its size and wide scope of its activities.

Of particular interest to men visitors is the perfume vault. Side by side on its shelves are stored the ingredients Walgreens perfumes and the fume used in their face powder, cold creams, lotions, re and shaving creams.

There is the interesting where tons of

Shalit's Drug Store Built Around Its Fountain Dept

ATTEND SHALIT'S OPENING

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Example 3: New high school!

Sanford High School burned down in 1940 and had to be rebuilt. The *Sanford Tribune* describes all the modern aspects of the new building in articles in August and September of 1941. What counts as “modern” here?



A. Lunchroom

light ceiling are supposed to make the food taste better; this room should eventually be decorated with mural paintings by the students. Incidentally murals by the students would add to the interest of most of the rooms. Mechanical drawing equipment is designed to work with the vocational shop. Domestic science cooking and sewing are designed and the color scheme worked out to show the best in home-making conditions. The four science laboratories are completely equipped including dissecting sets lenses and test tubes. Men and women teachers each have retiring rooms of their own.

B. Typewriting Tables

"Pupil's commercial typewriting tables are designed so that 35 typists work under office conditions. The tables and chairs in the reference library and conference spaces are specially designed to harmonize with the architecture. The principal's office desk is a double desk so that two persons can work facing each other. The principal's private office is equipped with special homelike furniture for informal but important conferences with pupils and parents.

"The nurse's clinic is complete. The lunch room seats 220 pupils at one time. The pink table tops, apple green walls, dark floor and

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C. Chalkboards

Chalkboards

"In 1937 the architects pioneered the use of cream colored glass chalkboards and have specified nothing else since. For several years they had experimented with chalk and chalkboards to find a good combination of dark writing on light colored boards. Experiments in England had definitely determined an increase in speed of reading of pupils from this natural combination over the speed of reading from white chalk on grey boards. The increase in speed proves that there is also less eye strain from reading the dark writing on light colored boards. Opticians and oculists demanded the improved method. The experiment tried nearly every kind of chalk made by the leading manufacturers and finally a combination was found that insured good results. At the time glass chalkboards were colored by painting the back of sheets of etched plate glass. Therefore cream colored paint made chalkboards which matched the walls. The most successful chalk was ultramarine blue. The result was spectacularly successful.

D. Moveable Furniture

Movable Furniture

"Let us consider the equipment contracts which are separate from the construction contract. Most used is the pupil's desk and chair which is the movable type. The only possible criticism is that movable furniture makes the cleaners' work difficult but many janitors prefer it and believe that cleaning is facilitated by moving the furniture out of the way. The movable type desk can be arranged for individual group study. Four or six desks can be placed together making one conference table. The desks can be pushed to one side and the chairs used alone. The pupils can be grouped in any corner facing diagonally or they can even face the rear or side of the room. Teachers' desks and chairs are pink giving a pleasant highlight in the front of the classroom.

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The "Smith Act" of 1940 ("Alien Registration Act") and the Effects of a Law

In *The Orphan Band of Springdale* (Candlewick Press), Gusta's father and Mr. Bertmann's standing in the community and status in the country are questioned using the "Smith Act." The "Smith Act" was enacted by the 76th United States Congress on June 28, 1940.

Here is its official (long!) title: "The Civilian and Military Organizations License Act: An Act to prohibit certain subversive activities; to amend certain provisions of law with respect to the admission and deportation of aliens; to require the fingerprinting and registration of aliens; and for other purposes."

Questions:

- What are "subversive activities"?
- What are "aliens"?
- What words in the Act's title make it hard to tell exactly what this law covers? Circle those words and phrases!

What did the Smith Act do?

Part 1. One section of the Smith Act changed an earlier law. That law ("The Act of October 16, 1918") had contained a long list of ideas that the government thought were dangerous, and said that anyone currently holding such ideas "shall be excluded from admission into the United States"--and could be "expelled" from the United States if they had already entered. Here's what the original 1918 Act said:

<p>October 16, 1918. [H. R. 12402.] [Public, No. 221.]</p>	<p>CHAP. 186.—An Act To exclude and expel from the United States aliens who are members of the anarchistic and similar classes.</p>
<p>Alien anarchists, etc., excluded admission. Classes designated.</p>	<p><i>Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That</i> aliens who are anarchists; aliens who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States or of all forms of law; aliens who disbelieve in or are opposed to all organized government; aliens who advocate or teach the assassination of public officials; aliens who advocate or teach the unlawful destruction of property; aliens who are members of or affiliated with any organization that entertains a belief in, teaches, or advocates the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States or of all forms of law, or that entertains or teaches disbelief in or opposition to all organized government, or that advocates the duty, necessity, or propriety of the unlawful assaulting or killing of any officer or officers, either of specific individuals or of officers generally, of the Government of the United States or of any other organized government, because of his or their official character, or that advocates or teaches the unlawful destruction of property shall be excluded from admission into the United States.</p>

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Questions:

- What are "anarchists"?
- What's the difference between being a "member" of a group and being "affiliated" with a group?
- There are many scary ideas in this list. Do some of them seem more or less "dangerous" to you than others? Why?

The Smith Act of 1940 added 31 words to the beginning of the 1918 law:

SEC. 23. (a) The first paragraph of section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act to exclude and expel from the United States aliens who are members of the anarchistic and similar classes", approved October 16, 1918, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"That any alien who, at any time, shall be or shall have been a member of any one of the following classes shall be excluded from admission into the United States:".

Act of Oct. 16, 1918, amendments. 40 Stat. 1012. 8 U. S. C. § 137.

Exclusion, if member of any one of designated classes of aliens.

What do these 31 words *change*? Let's figure that out.

Go back and look at the verbs used in the old 1918 law: "Aliens who are anarchists; aliens who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of the Government...."

Questions:

- What tense are those verbs in?
- What difference does that verb tense make?

Verbs sometimes make a very big difference! In the 1930s and early 1940s the U. S. Government wanted to deport a labor organizer named Harry Bridges. He was officially an "alien," because he was an Australian citizen. The U. S. Government said he had been in the past a member of an organization it considered dangerous, and so they wanted to use the 1918 law to force Harry Bridges out of the country.

But the U. S. Supreme Court said NO. The Court said that the 1918 law applied only to people who *currently* held those dangerous ideas or *currently* belonged to groups considered dangerous--not to people who might have held those ideas in the past.

And that's why the Smith Act of 1940 changed the wording of the 1918 law: "*That any alien who, at any time, shall be or shall have been a member of any one of the following classes shall be excluded from admission into the United States:*"

Now someone could be denied entrance to the United States--or deported from the United States--on the basis of ideas they had held *in the past*, or groups they had been members of *in the past*.

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From History to Fiction

- How does this part of the Smith Act affect the story in *The Orphan Band of Springdale*?
- Which character is most worried about this part of the Smith Act? Why?
- What does that fear make him do?

Local Effects of a National Law

It was another section of the Smith Act of June 26, 1940, that affected the most people, however. The Smith Act was also called "The Alien Registration Act" because of the new requirement that "aliens" register and be fingerprinted:

SEC. 31. (a) It shall be the duty of every alien now or hereafter in the United States, who (1) is fourteen years of age or older, (2)

has not been registered and fingerprinted under section 30, and (3) remains in the United States for thirty days or longer, to apply for registration and to be fingerprinted before the expiration of such thirty days.

(b) It shall be the duty of every parent or legal guardian of any alien now or hereafter in the United States, who (1) is less than fourteen years of age, (2) has not been registered under section 30, and (3) remains in the United States for thirty days or longer, to apply for the registration of such alien before the expiration of such thirty days. Whenever any alien attains his fourteenth birthday in the United States he shall, within thirty days thereafter, apply in person for registration and to be fingerprinted.

SEC. 32. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 30 and 31—

(a) The application for the registration and fingerprinting, or for the registration, of any alien who is in the United States on the effective date of such sections may be made at any time within four months after such date.

In local newspapers from 1940-1941, we can see evidence that this new law was being put into practice. On the next page, you'll see an article from the *Sanford Tribune* (a newspaper from southern Maine) from January 2, 1941.

Questions:

- What word is used here to describe people who are not United States citizens? What effect does that word have, do you think?
- If you came from a French-Canadian family and had been living in the Sanford area for a long time (generations, perhaps), but had not switched your official citizenship to "United States," what did the new law make you do?

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Front page of the Sanford Tribune, January 2, 1941:

FRIDAY JANUARY 2, 1941

REGISTER 1,456 ALIENS LOCALLY, 4-MONTH PERIOD

1,191 Register At Sanford,
265 In Springvale — Seven-
teen Fingerprinted On Two
Last Days In Sanford



The task of registering and fingerprinting Sanford and Springvale's alien population ended last Thursday evening with a total of 1,456 registered in the four-month period. Postmaster Linwood J. Emery reported 1,191 registered in Sanford, and Postmaster Louis S. Marquis reported 265 in Springvale.

Six aliens registered in Sanford Dec. 26 on the closing day; 11 were registered on the 24th. Postmaster Emery reported that 1,085 aliens had registered up to December.

In Springvale 246 aliens registered up to Dec. 1 and 19 registered during December.

From Friday on an alien who applies for registration must have a good excuse for not reporting within the time limit. He will be registered and fingerprinted and the forms forwarded to the Department of Justice in Washington in the usual manner, but he will be required to fill out a special form stating reasons for his delinquency and must answer other pertinent questions. If his excuses are deemed insufficient, he will be liable to prosecution.

Any alien found to have deliberately failed to register will be subject to a \$1,000 fine and six months' imprisonment.

Friday

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Questions:

- What words in this article might worry you, if you were a non-citizen in 1941?
- What would the effect of this article be on someone who WAS a citizen in 1941? What new thoughts about their non-citizen neighbors might the article make them have?

The "Smith Act" The Orphan Band of Springdale

The Smith Act is mentioned by name on pp. 246-247 of *The Orphan Band of Springdale*, when the union organizer up from New York mentions the new law being used to deport radical union organizers. Gusta remembers her father being upset because the Smith Act might be used to send him "right back into the gnashing teeth of Germany":

She remembered her father's voice, the tension in his shoulders, the way he punched one tense fist into the tense palm of his other hand. "There it is! They're coming after us for sure. [...] Alien Registration Act! Smith Act! Ha! They can call it whatever they want, but they're not really worried about Nazi spies--they're worried that people might start organizing in their factories. They'll do anything they can to deport us organizers. That's all that Smith Act is really about: it's about how much they want us gone."

They were going to charge August Neubronner [Gusta's father] with being an alien and a Communist, that's what he had said, and they changed the laws so that they could deport you, if you had ever been in some too-revolutionary group... —*The Orphan Band of Springdale*

The effects of the Smith Act show up at a number of different points in the novel. Can you find places in the story where people are talking about "aliens" or "registration" or "deportation"? To get you started look at pp. 394-395).

Questions:

- What penalty does Mr. Bertmann face for not registering? (See the article in the *Sanford Tribune*.)
- Why doesn't Mr. Bertmann want to register? (He gives some reasons here--and then explains some more on the following pages. Why did Mr. Bertmann leave Germany?)
- In Chapter 33 Molly Gowen, one of Gusta's classmates, argues that registering "aliens" is "just trying to be careful" (p. 277). What is she frightened of, and why?

Here's how Gusta responds to Molly (pp. 277-278):

"Even if my papa came here from Germany, haven't you ever thought for one minute that some people might leave Germany because they don't agree with what the Nazis are doing? Haven't you thought for a moment how dangerous it would be, to be someone who disagrees with what the Nazis think? If someone like my father put his foot into Germany, you know what they would do? They would lock him up! And then they would probably kill him."
—*The Orphan Band of Springdale*

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- What is Gusta frightened of, and why?

Fear can make us do hurtful things--but it can also make us cautious (which isn't always bad)--and it can even inspire us to be brave, despite our fear. Almost every character in the book is a little bit afraid of something!

- Can you find examples of different reactions to fear (hurtful actions, cautious actions, brave actions) in *The Orphan Band of Springdale*?