

Novel Ideas for the Classroom

Using Cold War on Maplewood Street with 5th - 7th grade classes.

Language Arts

- Letter-writing plays an important role in *Cold War on Maplewood Street*. Write a letter to Joanna telling her how your life is different from hers and also in what ways it's nearly the same.
- Take one scene from *Cold War on Maplewood Street* and write it as if it were a scene from a play. Choose some co-stars and act it out for the class.
- Joanna's vivid imagination sometimes frightens her. Describe a time when you allowed your imagination to "run away with you" with scary results.
- Do you think Joanna was a brave person? Why or why not?
- Joanna loved to read, especially mysteries and stories about horses. List three books that weren't written until after 1962 that you enjoyed and think she would have too. At least one must be a mystery, and one must have horses in it. Write a few sentences of recommendation for each book, stating why you think Joanna would like it.

Social Studies

Cold War on Maplewood Street was inspired by an historic event in the author's girlhood. Imagine you are grown up and want to write a story about your life now. Is there one event you would like to single out and set your story around? What are the most important details you think you should include to give young readers of the future a sense of what it's like to grow up at this particular time in history?