



Secrets of the Manor by Adele Whitby

Recommended for grades 1 to 3

SUMMARY:

The Secrets of the Manor series follows a family through generations. The first in the series is Beth's story, a young girl who will receive a precious family heirloom on her twelfth birthday. But when family from France comes calling on Chatswood manor and another family heirloom goes missing, Beth must work hard to clear the name of her lady's maid and friend, Shannon. Her search leads her to find a deep family mystery that dates back generations. What secrets are hidden away in Chatswood manor?

Discussion Questions:

1. What defines a family tradition? Does your family have any traditions?
2. Do you think it's important to have family traditions? Why?
3. In this book, Beth stands up for Shannon. Did she do the right thing? Would you have done the same thing in her place?
4. Beth's family is huge; she has cousins living in many different countries. Would you rather have a small family that lives close together or a large family that lives far apart?
5. What role do family traditions play in Beth's family? Does it help bring them together?
6. What role do family traditions play in your family?

Further Resources:

About the Secrets of the Manor series: <http://www.simonandschuster.com/series/Secrets-of-the-Manor>

Family life in 1914 UK: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/25415718>

Activities:

1. What do you want to do on your twelfth birthday? Write a detailed list of interesting activities, food you would want to eat, decorations you want to have, etc.
2. Draw your own Chatswood manor. What do you think it looks like based on what you read?