Betsy-Tacy by Maud Hart Lovelace

Recommended for grades 1 to 3

Summary:
Betsy is a lonely 5-year-old girl who lives on Hill Street in Mankato, MN around 1897. A new family moves in, with a young girl she quickly becomes friends with. They meet at Betsy’s birthday party, and from then on, the two are inseparable. Betsy spends so much time with the new girl, Tacy, that people start to think of them as one person: Betsy-Tacy. They do everything together, until they come home one day to a new friend named Tib. This is the first book of a series based largely upon the author’s life.

Discussion Questions
1. What is a friend and why are friends important to you?
2. What personality traits do you look for in a friend? Who is your best friend and what makes them so special to you?
3. Why do Betsy and Tacy become friends? What about them makes their friendship special?
4. Is it better to have a friend that’s very similar to you or very different? Why?
5. How is Betsy different at the end of the book than she was at the beginning of the book? Can being friends with someone change you?
6. Can you think of a way your friends have affected your life or your preferences in a positive or negative way?
7. How do Betsy’s friends encourage her to follow her dreams?

Reviews and other sources:
Maud Hart Lovelace: https://dar.to/2KwjfPV
Deep Valley: https://dar.to/2rS0YpB
New York Times: https://dar.to/2KC4zPg

Activities:
1. Make a Venn diagram comparing Betsy to Tacy and Tib.
2. Make a map of Deep Valley, including Betsy and Tacy’s houses.