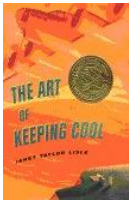


Passages

Reading Level 6



Title: The Art of Keeping Cool

Author: Janet Taylor Lisle

Sample From The Book

Early Saturday morning we heard the big guns were pulling close to Sachem's Head.

The word was they'd begin passing through town sometime between ten and eleven o'clock, so my cousin Elliot and I walked up Parson's Lane right after breakfast. We stood along the side of West Main Road with a raw sea wind whipping past our ears and it wasn't long before we got so cold we had to start hopping.

"Hey Robert, did we have to get here so early?" Elliot panted between hops.

"We had to," I panted back. "It's going to be history."

This was early in March 1942, barely three months after Pearl Harbor was bombed and America went to war against the Nazis and Japanese, and we weren't the only ones on the road that morning. Soon people began to stream out from everywhere and wait at the ends of their driveways. Kids were climbing trees to look up the road. Every so often somebody would ride by in a car or on a bike and yell out a progress report. They're at Wickham Road, won't be long now! They're up to Mrs. Grimmel's!

They were mighty sixteen-inch bore naval guns, two of them – the largest and most powerful long-range weapons at that time. I'll never forget how the first tremendous body rose over the hill, its long gray barrel pointed back up the road. An escort of armed soldiers walked soberly alongside.



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