

Get Creative With **Breathing Room**

- 1) Create a story using only letters written back and forth between characters.
- 2) When Evvy first gets to Loon Lake, all her senses must adjust to the unfamiliar sights, sounds and sensations of the sanatorium. Write a story in which the main character is forced to adjust to a strange and new setting. Pay attention to details that will appeal to your reader's senses.
- 3) Use the chapter titles from the table of contents—and your own additional words-- to create a poem about the story, a particular character, or an event that happens in the novel—or maybe in your own life.
- 4) Make your own Loon Lake Booster (found before Chapter 18) pretending to write the stories and poems from the various characters in the novel.
- 5) Write the poem that Evvy will send to Sarah after the story's end.
- 6) Write the first letter Evvy will send to Sarah after the story's end. Then write Sarah's response.
- 7) Find poems or make up some on your own that fit another character in the way "Invictus" suits Dena.
- 8) **Breathing Room** makes use of photos and ephemera from the time period to help tell the story. Pick one of the photos or illustrations and use it to write a story or a poem of your own set in the 1930's or 1940's.
- 9) Imagine if you—like Evvy—had to leave your family and home. Who and what would you miss most and why? You could either write down your response or put together a collage that you might imagine taking with you as a way to remember home.
- 10) Write a story from Abe's point of view that takes place while Evvy is at Loon Lake Sanatorium.