

TWO-TIME NEWBERY MEDALIST
ERIN ENTRADA KELLY

AT LAST SHE STOOD



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about Joey's early life, her family, her marriage, and her relationship to her daughter. What role did formal education play in her early life? What formal education did she acquire in the United States, and how? In what ways was she also self-taught? Discuss her love of music, literature, and beauty.
2. Describe Joey's role in the resistance movement. Give details about how she carried the map to the Allies, and what the results were. How did having Hansen's disease affect her journey? What were some of her other tasks as a spy? How much danger was she in at various points? Why was she willing to risk the danger?
3. What did Joey mean when she referred to her "strange hidden life"? (Ch. 9 & 27) How did she help others with Hansen's disease? Why were people so biased against Hansen's disease? What were some of the negative effects of those biases on Joey's life? What other biases did she face in the Philippines and the U.S.? How did she cope with the difficulties?
4. Explain the role of Catholicism in Joey's life. Who was Joan of Arc and why did Joey want to be like her? What priests became part of her life, and how did they matter to her? In what ways was Catholicism important at Carville?
5. What do you learn about Joey's life after she left Carville? Why did she want to stay in the United States, and how did she manage to do so? What kinds of jobs did she have? Why do you think she joined the Peace Corps and how does that relate to her earlier life? Discuss the note Joey wrote at Carville that forms the last two paragraphs of the book, and your reaction to it.
6. Describe some of the people in Joey's life in the Philippines and the U.S., other than family, who were friends or allies, some of whom also had Hansen's disease. What do you learn about their lives? What did they have in common with Joey? How did she interact with them?
7. The role of newspapers and other publications was vital throughout Joey's adult life. Find some examples of how the press covered her and her concerns. How did newspaper articles help her reach her goals at different points? How did she use press coverage to help others with Hansen's disease? Discuss underground newspapers as part of the Filipino resistance, and talk about the Japanese use of propaganda in the Philippines during the war.
8. What does the book convey about how World War II affected the Philippines, its people, its culture, and its geography? Why did the Japanese want to take power in the Philippines? How did they go about it? What is an "open city," and why did General MacArthur choose to leave and declare Manila one? How and when did the U.S. military return?
9. What else do you learn about the history of the Philippines? What role did colonialism play in its history? Why did Spain and the U.S. want to have power over the Philippines? How did those countries go about getting control? How was Catholicism part of the country's history?
10. *At Last She Stood* uses more than the main narrative to convey information and emotion. Talk about what is added by the photographs, illustrations, initial letter to the reader, author's note, and other back matter such as further resources, bibliography, and notes. How does the level of documentation affect your trust in the book's accuracy? How did the cover, the title, and the book's structure impact you as a reader?

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Joey's Love of Beauty

Joey loved music, poetry, books, and plants, and even studied fashion design. Respond to Joey's love of beauty in a related way. You could write a poem about her and her life. The class could listen to her favorite music such as Brahms and create art while listening. You could craft a collage—digital or handcrafted—or another piece of art that reflects Joey, or even sew a doll like Ah Choo.

Hansen's Disease

Review the information about Hansen's disease in *At Last She Stood*. Learn more about its history and our current medical knowledge by using sources listed at the end of the book. Find information about how it was perceived and dealt with in countries other than the Philippines. Share your findings in a small group discussion and talk about society's biases that you know of towards various illnesses and disabilities.

In Joey's Words

The biography quotes from Joey's writings to give you a sense of her life and thoughts. Find a quotation that strikes you as meaningful (which could be the epigraph) and write an essay in response to it. Refer to incidents and experiences in her life and include your feelings about her character, actions, and hopes.

Philippines—Travel or Time Travel

What was the Philippines like in the past? What is it like now? Working in pairs, choose an aspect of the country's history, geography, or society today. Drawing from the narrative and resources in *At Last She Stood*, and from other print or online sources, create a multimedia presentation to share with the class about traveling to the Philippines now or in the past.

Meet the Author!

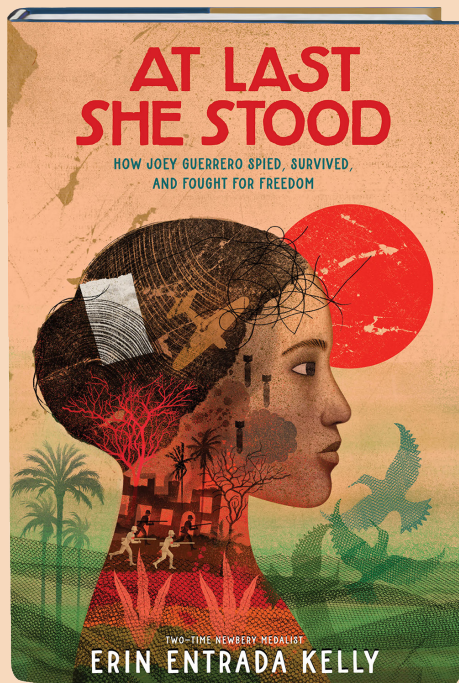
Learn more about Erin Entrada Kelly either briefly or with a full-fledged author study as described at the Reading Rockets website. Explore print interviews on her website. Watch videos on her YouTube channel; an extensive video clip playlist at Reading Rockets; or her appearance in Author-Fan Face-off. Read her other books and discuss them with your classmates.

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- Author Study Toolkit
readingrockets.org/books-and-authors/author-study-toolkit

Colonialism Mapped

Have students research and choose a country from the many that have been colonized at some point. Post a world map or give students individual world maps. Students should prepare a note about the nation's experience as a colony, listing occupying country or countries, years occupied, languages imposed, and year of liberation, if any. Students can add the notes to the classroom map or display their individual maps with notes.

Guide prepared by Kathleen Odean, a children's literature consultant and former chair of the Newbery Award Committee.



ABOUT THE BOOK

When you think of a spy, who do you imagine? A young Filipino woman with a feared disease? Probably not. Yet that's exactly who risked her life to smuggle a map past Japanese soldiers during World War II. With the help of the map, Allied troops rescued thousands of civilian prisoners of war. Bolstered by her religious faith, Joey Guerrero also spied on Japanese barracks in Manila, carried secret messages, and helped injured American soldiers. All the while, she dealt with the debilitating illness now known as Hansen's disease, then called leprosy. Although confined for years to medical treatment centers, this unlikely hero was awarded the prestigious U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom. What leads someone who is poor and sick to show such amazing courage? Who was Joey Guerrero and why haven't you heard of her before? Be swept away by her story, steeped in Filipino history and a war that changed the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erin Entrada Kelly is the author of the Newbery Medal-winning novels *Hello, Universe* and *The First State of Being*, which was also named a finalist for the National Book Award. She received a Newbery Honor for her acclaimed novel *We Dream of Space*. Erin Entrada Kelly grew up in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and now lives in Delaware. She teaches in the MFA in writing for children and young adults program at Hamline University. Her short fiction has been nominated for the Philippines Free Press Literary Award for Short Fiction and the Pushcart Prize. Before becoming a children's author, Erin worked as a journalist and magazine editor and received numerous awards for community service journalism, feature writing, and editing from the Louisiana Press Association and the Associated Press.



Erin Entrada Kelly's debut novel, *Blackbird Fly*, was a *Kirkus* Best Book of the Year, a *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year, an ALSC Notable Book, and an Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Honor Book. She is also the author of *The Land of Forgotten Girls*, winner of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature; *You Go First*, an Indie Next Pick; *Lalani of the Distant Sea*, an Indie Next Pick; *Those Kids from Fawn Creek*, named to numerous best-of-the-year lists; and five popular novels for younger readers, *Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey*, *Surely Surely Marisol Rainey*, *Only Only Marisol Rainey*, *Your Turn Marisol Rainey*, and *Felix Powell, Boy Dog*, which she also illustrated.

ALSO BY ERIN ENTRADA KELLY

