

# Until Tomorrow, Mr. Marsworth

Written by Sheila O'Connor

## Puffin Books

978-0-14-242554-1 | Trade Paperback  
384 pages | \$7.99 | Lexile 770L



### LESSON FOCUS

Opinion writing

### OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

*Until Tomorrow, Mr. Marsworth* by Sheila O'Connor is an unusual story told through an ongoing exchange of letters. In this lesson, students will read a letter from Reenie Kelly. Everyone in the letter has an opinion about the Vietnam War. Students will identify each of the characters and the opinion they hold.

### LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will identify an individual character's opinions about a topic.
2. Students will collect evidence to support that opinion.

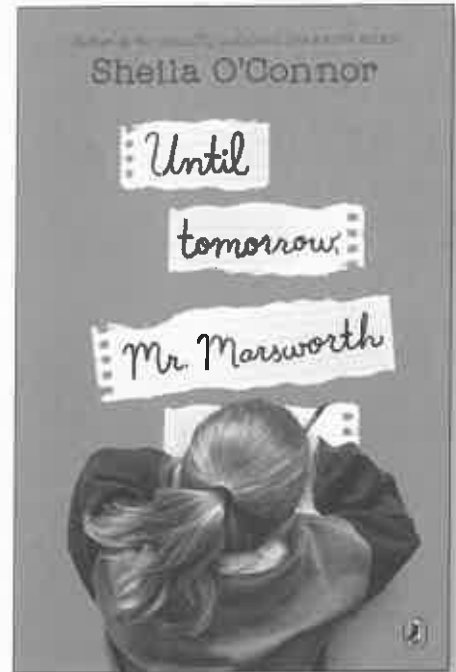
### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *Until Tomorrow, Mr. Marsworth* by Sheila O'Connor, pages 18-22
2. Everyone Has an Opinion worksheet

### ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- Step 1:** Introduce *Until Tomorrow, Mr. Marsworth* by Sheila O'Connor
- Step 2:** Have students read Reenie Kelly's letter on pages 18-22 or read the chapter aloud to the class.
- Step 3:** Students will read the letter a second time with a purpose. They can do this independently or with a partner. This time,

## Lesson Plan for Marvelous Middle Grade Reads



### SUMMARY

Set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, one young girl is determined to save her brother from the draft — and gets help from an unlikely source — in this middle-grade tale, perfect for fans of *The Wednesday Wars*.

they will determine the opinion of each character in the letter about the Vietnam War.

**Step 4:** Fill out the Everyone Has an Opinion worksheet with evidence from the text.

**Step 5:** Students will meet with a different partner or group and share the evidence found for each character. Students can agree or disagree and add or remove evidence from the chart.

**KEY PIECES OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT EACH CHARACTER'S OPINION:**

Reenie Kelly	Gram	Billy
"I didn't mind you wrote against the war[...]" (O'Connor 18)	[...]but Gram sure did" (O'Connor 19)	"Even Bobby Kennedy thought the war was wrong" (O'Connor 19)
"Skip's not for this war either," I told Gram[...] "Our boys are getting killed in Vietnam" (O'Connor 19)	"If Howard Marsworth doesn't love this country, he should leave it" (O'Connor 19)	"Our men are dying in the thousands there, and nobody knows why. And the Vietnamese are dying. Or else they're made to suffer while their country is destroyed. Reports are coming in that we've killed women and children" (O'Connor 20)
"No one can agree about this war, not even us" (O'Connor 21)	"They didn't write letters to the editor saying war is wrong. They served their country first. A letter is a coward's way" (O'Connor 19)	"So why draft ten thousand more of us to fight against our will? To die in some strange country just like Mr. Marsworth says" (O'Connor 21)
	"Your pen pal Skip from Baton Rouge. Don't you think our soldiers deserve our full support?" (O'Connor 19)	
	"They're dying for our country. They need us on their side" (O'Connor 19)	
	"They didn't argue with their country, they didn't refuse to serve. They didn't stay home to write the paper. Or burn their draft cards like some boys are doing now" (O'Connor 20)	

**EVERYONE HAS AN OPINION**

Directions: Read the letter on pages 18-22. Locate evidence in the text that supports each character's opinion about the Vietnam War. You, as the reader, have not actually read the letter Mr. Marsworth sent to the local newspaper. Based on the conversation in the text, infer Mr. Marsworth's opinion about the Vietnam War.

**Opinions About the Vietnam War**

Reenie Kelly	Gram	Billy

What can you, as the reader, infer Mr. Marsworth's opinion is in his letter to the paper about the Vietnam War?



Education

Penguin Random House Education  
1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019  
penguinrandomhouseeducation.com

Queries: [K12education@edu.penguinrandomhouse.com](mailto:K12education@edu.penguinrandomhouse.com)

