Love, Lizzie
Letters to a Military Mom
Written By: Lisa Tucker McElroy

Goal: Lizzie’s mom is a soldier with an overseas posting. The location is not mentioned, but the woman is shown in combat uniform, wearing a helmet and goggles and holding binoculars. The story is told as a series of letters from Lizzie to her mom, from the time she leaves until she returns home.

1. Show the cover of the book and ask the children to read the title.

2. What is the little girl holding?

3. Why is she pictured on top of the world?

4. Read the story stopping from time-to-time to ask:

   a. What is Lizzie’s brother’s name?
   b. What is Lizzie’s mother’s favorite snack?
   c. What did they have to get Thomas?
   d. What does Lizzie think is not fair?
   e. What does Lizzie’s mother wear everyday?
   f. Where does Lizzie want her mother to meet her?
   g. When your service member was deployed did they ever miss one of your special days?
   h. What are both Lizzie and her mother going to wear?
   i. Did your service person miss a special holiday away from you?
   j. Why can’t Lizzie’s mother tell her exactly where she is?
   k. Which star are both Lizzie and her mother wishing on?
   l. What did Lizzie’s father explain about the size of the sun and distance?
m. What did Lizzie receive at school?

n. What was inside?

5. What does the story teach us?

Activity:

- Have a service member speak to the youth on the safety techniques and equipment that they use overseas. The youth can take turns trying on the helmet and flak jacket. Discuss ways they can be safe at home. Ask a guest speaker from the police department to speak with the youth on ideas to remain safe.

- The youth can bring in blank calendars and with the help of their parent mark important dates on it. The service member’s date of departure can be placed on the calendar to use as a tool to track how long they have been gone. Family pictures and drawings from the youth can decorate each page.

- Write letters to deployed service members. “You are my hero cards” can be obtained from your CYS office. The family can make care packages for deployed service persons.

- Lesson Plan written by:
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