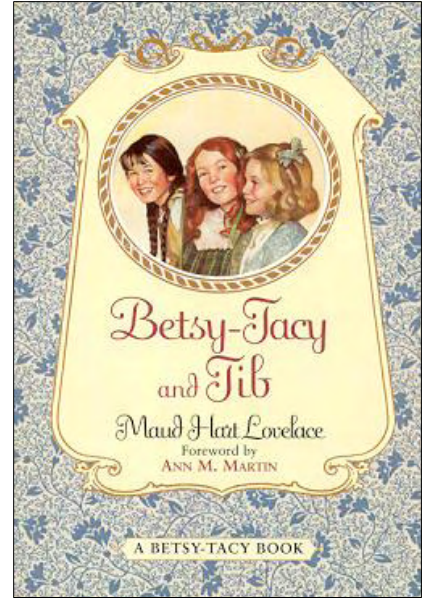


# *Betsy-Tacy and Tib*

*By Maud Hart Lovelace*

“Betsy and Tacy were friends first. They were good friends, and they never quarreled. When Tib moved into the neighborhood . . . [although] many people expected it, no trouble began . . . The three of them didn’t quarrel, any more than the two of them had” (*Betsy-Tacy and Tib*, pp. 1-2). They didn’t always behave themselves, they sometimes quarreled with their older sisters, but they always had good times.

The three friends find themselves in some hilarious predicaments in this second volume of the series. Betsy’s fertile imagination provides the stimulus for most of these situations. While Tacy follows Betsy unquestioningly, Tib provides a tentative voice of reason which is usually overruled by the others. But, as we come to see, that’s “just like Tib.”



## Chapter 1.

How does “two’s company, three’s a crowd” apply in this chapter?

Why did Betsy and Tacy have to wait for Tib each morning?

## Chapter 2.

How did Tacy and Tib “fly” differently from the maple tree?

What was the purpose of Betsy’s story about flying?

What was the “joke” Tib knew about Betsy and how did Betsy respond? What do you think she was feeling?

## Chapter 3.

The girls poke each other often. What are some of the reasons for this?

Describe some differences between what the girls wore to the carnival and what you would wear to one.

How does Betsy turn Tib’s “terrible news” into fun?

Why do you think the girls gave up trying to fly?

## Chapter 4.

Name some differences between a cellar and a basement.

What does the “Three Little Pigs” reenactment accomplish?

## Chapter 5.

How did Betsy’s, Tacy’s and Tib’s “playing over” differ from what children do after school today?

What is “keeping house”?

Have you ever been home alone? How did you feel?

Do you think anyone suspected what the girls had cooked up? Why or why not?

What would you have named the Everything Pudding?

#### Chapter 6.

Look upside-down into a mirror and walk around in some familiar rooms or outside.

How does this make you feel?

When the author says that Tib “was beginning to get used to Betsy” after playing with her for two years, what does she mean?

How does Freddie complicate the “Mirror Palace” game?

Matilda scolded the girls and said she had heard that Mrs. Ray’s kitchen looked nice after the girls had kept house for her. What was she inferring by this?

#### Chapter 7.

What is diphtheria?

Have you ever been separated from a friend for a long time?

How did you feel during and after the separation?

How does Tacy’s return to health lead to mischief?

What seems to be Julia’s and Katie’s favorite exclamation?

#### Chapter 8.

What does “being good” mean to you?

Have you ever formed a club? Tell us about it: who was in it, what did you do, was it secret, did you have rules, etc.?

What do you think is the real reason the girls form clubs?

Discuss “hair shirts.”

What was the problem with the TCKC?

Can you explain the irony in the last sentence in this chapter: “In silence the three of them looked at the sunset and thought about God”?

#### Chapter 9.

What exciting news does Tib treat so nonchalantly?

Why are Betsy and Tacy so excited? Why so scared?

Besides the TCKC, what do the girls think up to puzzle their sisters? Do you ever do this to siblings or friends?

What “secrets” are revealed in this chapter?

How do the girls react to Mrs. Ray’s club suggestion? Why?

#### Chapter 10.

Why do you think the girls feel “queer” when they see Aunt Dolly for the first time?

How does Aunt Dolly entertain the girls? Would this be entertaining for you and your friends?

Do you remember wanting to be ten? What is so important and magical about that number?

## GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS BOOK:

Compare and contrast Tib with Betsy and Tacy.

Describe the ways in which the girls relate to adults. Is it similar to how you interact with grown ups today? Or different? How?

Have you ever done something that resulted in your being in big trouble, the way the girls did in this book? What were the consequences?

What was your favorite chapter in this book? Why?

## RESEARCH/WRITING ACTIVITIES:

Do some research on diphtheria and share your findings with the class.

Choose one of the following chapters -- 1, 5, 6, 7, or 8 – and write a different ending or a sequel that takes the story farther.

Start a list or graphic organizer with ideas you get about your own life by reading these books. You might include differences you see between your life and Betsy's, lessons that Betsy and her friends learn, ways that the girls' lives are similar to yours, new words you learn (or new meanings for familiar words), historical facts you discover, or some other idea that appeals to you. Check this out with your teacher once you have decided what you want to do.

## DRAMA:

With a group, choose one of the girls' activities from this book to pantomime for the class. See how long you can keep your classmates puzzled and guessing.

Make up a tune for the "Everything Pudding" song and sing it for the class with your group.

