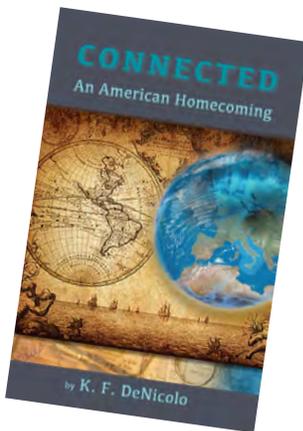


In the Age of Covid-19

# A Virtual Study Guide 8

*for Parent and  
Children*



to accompany K.F. DeNicolo's book

## **Connected** An American Homecoming

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# Study Guide



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## ***Connected 8:0: Duty, Maturity, Legacy***

**Prologue:** How does the sand rush so quickly through the hourglass? Such is life!

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Jo watched her mother rake the leaves, sweep the patio and wash clothes. Work done before dawn along the shoreline along a small plot of land in Wisconsin! This was a special place where her family escaped the city. A small cottage but filled with enough of everything to camp for a few days or weeks. They all loved this place it was their retreat, fresh country air to breathe life into their souls. The lake hushed the dawn. Morning arrived quietly from slumber. The warm rays of the sun blanketed the earth with color and warmth. There were beautiful fruit trees in the garden, and rich vegetables. Harvest time, maturity. "Where did that leave me?" she wondered.

School would be starting soon. How had she gotten through so much schooling and more was ahead of her? "Still, work a little at a time. Keep trying! Harder you work, the luckier you're going to get. Failure's not an option. Mistakes are stepping stones. You're going to make it. Such is life!"

She knew it all by heart. They were her words now, the tools of everyday life that she used to voice her determination. Words she connected to drive her motivation. Words that were a part of her heritage. Words she'd learned by communicating and striving for balance. Words she'd adapted to situations to move forward. Words she'd used to examine her conscience. Words that urged her to take responsibility for decisions and consequences. Words that had become habits. Words that had prompted

her to action. Words she'd repeated to resolve conflicts with people; mentors and opponents. Words that had given her perspective. And now what?

She had carved this small retreat to think in the sunshine. This morning, as in many mornings, Jo reminisced. She remembered how mom and dad threw themselves from one activity to the next, not giving in or giving up. What examples of hard work, perseverance, character! With this in mind she asked "Mom, what do you want to do?"

"Your choice! Can you begin without me?" asked her mother.

"Sure." Jo took one last look at the morning sky, the garden, the lake with the boats in safe harbor. There was a new day afloat, a beautiful promise. She went into the house. Steam the milk, make fresh coffee, break bread loaves, choose fruit for the bowl, and boil eggs. Get ready for the day.

It was hers but soon to be shared with school, obligations, challenges. School again! People, problems, personalities-all yet again! Herself again! There would be new roads and fears to be conquered. She had connected to her values and courageously defended her convictions. She listened to herself, and the heart and soul of others, and connected with confidence and care. She'd strengthened her beliefs and had deepened her faith. She'd connected with herself, the world, and the heavens. Connected, and "right at home," she journeyed toward her future.

### **Readers' Guide: Summary:**

Old family and friends find a way to live in your heart and memory. You'll remember conversations and how they encouraged you. If you're a little like these people, you'll connect with stories of the past, and you'll see resemblances. This is a story about growing up, finding your place in the world, taking what you've learned and moving forward in your life. There are people and places that shape us and make us world class citizens. One day we are at peace with ourselves and our world. That connection is a legacy to the following generations. I had hoped to share some of my inspirations with you.

### **Readers' Guide: Exercises & Activities**

Explain how someone inspired you. Make a chart of what you admire.

What song does this story remind you of?

What have you learned about citizenship? Who get your vote? Who needs to correct and make amends for their behavior? If you had a mock trial, who would you defend or prosecute?

Describe how Jo grew comfortable with herself .