

# Grace Banker - Educator's Guide

## Discussion Starters

- What is a pioneer? How are the Hello Girls pioneers?
- What is an unsung hero? How might the Hello Girls be unsung heroes?
- World War I was the first war with technology. What does that mean?
- Why did General Pershing require American women operators for service in Europe?
- How did the Hello Girls contribute to winning the war?
- What does the phrase "answer the call" mean? How does it have a double meaning in the title of this book?
- What does it mean to take an oath?
- Why did the operators have gas masks and helmets on their chairs?
- Why did they need to learn code words?
- The Hello Girls had a 60-year fight when they returned home from service. What does that mean?
- Why do you think the author wanted to write a book about Grace Banker for young readers?
- What does it mean to be a role model? If you think Grace Banker makes a good role model, explain why.
- Why do you think she chose the diary entries that were included?
- What is your favorite diary entry and why?
- Why do you think the illustrator chose this style to share Grace's story?

## Compare and Contrast

How are you like Grace Banker? How are you different? Does she have qualities that you aspire to have? Which ones and why?

Show photo of Hello Girls in uniform upon arrival in Paris (Back Matter photo) and compare with a photo of a regiment of WWI soldiers. How are they the same? Different?

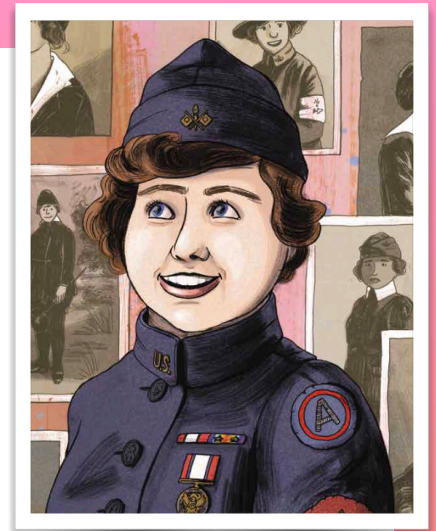
How was Grace, as the Chief operator, like a conductor of an orchestra?

Cooperate, Collaborate, and Communicate: How did the Hello Girls practice the 3 c's with each other? With the male soldiers and their superiors? How do you think an author and illustrator need the 3 c's to make a picture book?



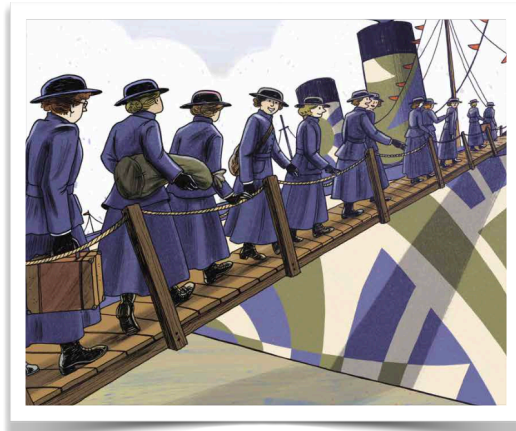
## **Activities**

- Switchboard relay: read back matter description of how to operate a switchboard and create a relay
- Make a WW I Foot Locker for Grace Banker
- BINGO – create a BINGO game with vocabulary from book
- Charades: Act out various scenes from the book
- Poetry Corner: A Soldier's Poem (in back matter) Look up the Nursery Rhyme, Sing a Song of Six Pence. Compare the poems. This poem was found in Grace Banker's trunk. Why are the words "just like us" so important? What does "toll for conversation" mean?
- Make a map of Grace Banker's journey in this book
- Newspaper activities: Write articles about Hello Girls leaving for service, returning from service, being denied veteran status, finally receiving veteran status after 60 years; partner work: interview Grace Banker about her service
- Research other WW I Hello Girls and make poster or trading cards with their bio's using 3 images, 2 content blocks, and 1 quote
- Wax Museum: Students will research Grace and other Hello Girls as well as other relevant characters (General Pershing), write and memorize a short bio (1-2 min), and dress for a wax museum event where characters come to life and recite bio when a token is dropped in a cup.
- Exploring primary sources in Back Matter: Find 3 Primary Sources: 1 photo or video, 1 document, 1 letter, 1 article/interview.
- Diary activity: Choose a page or scene from the book that does not have a quote from Grace and write your own



## **Research Topics**

- The Signal Corps
- History of the name "The Hello Girls"
- History of the telephone switchboard
- Women's jobs in 1917
- Technology in World War I
- The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- The Army's Distinguished Service Medal
- President Wilson's opinion of women's right to vote before and after World War I
- Why did many of the Signal Corps telephone operators arrive before soldiers and return after them in World War I?
- What is a veteran? Why was it so important to the Hello Girls to be recognized as veterans?
- What is an armistice?



## Research Topics (continued)

- What does “court martial” mean? Why were the Hello Girls threatened with that?
- Research the camouflage ships
- Read and write a review of the picture book “The Poppy Lady”



## There's a Time and a Place

- Grace Banker begins her WW I journey in 1917. What was going on in the world at this time?
- Draw 3 scenes from this book: GB in US, GB crossing the Atlantic, GB in France

## Come to Your Senses

Explore the book for scenes that you can imagine hearing, seeing, feeling, tasting, and smelling. Try to find 5 things you can see, 4 things you can hear, 3 things you can touch, 2 things you can smell, and 1 thing you can taste.

## 3-2-1

- 3 things that are different today from then, 2 things that are the same, 1 thing you are glad is different or the same
- 3 ways Hello Girls are extraordinary, 2 ways they are ordinary, 1 way you are like them
- 3 of your favorite parts of the book, 2 things you want to learn more about, 1 thing you relate to



## War Stories

- Define these military terms/words (make a matching game like Memory): court martial, barracks, curfew, doughboys, shrapnel, Signal Corps, gas masks, combat, headquarters, trenches, AEF, air raid sirens, Victory Medal, 11<sup>th</sup> hour, civilian, footlocker, Army of Occupation
- What started World War I?
- The US and France have a long history of friendship. How has the US and France helped each other in other wars?
- How did women support the war effort from home in WW I?

## Language Lessons

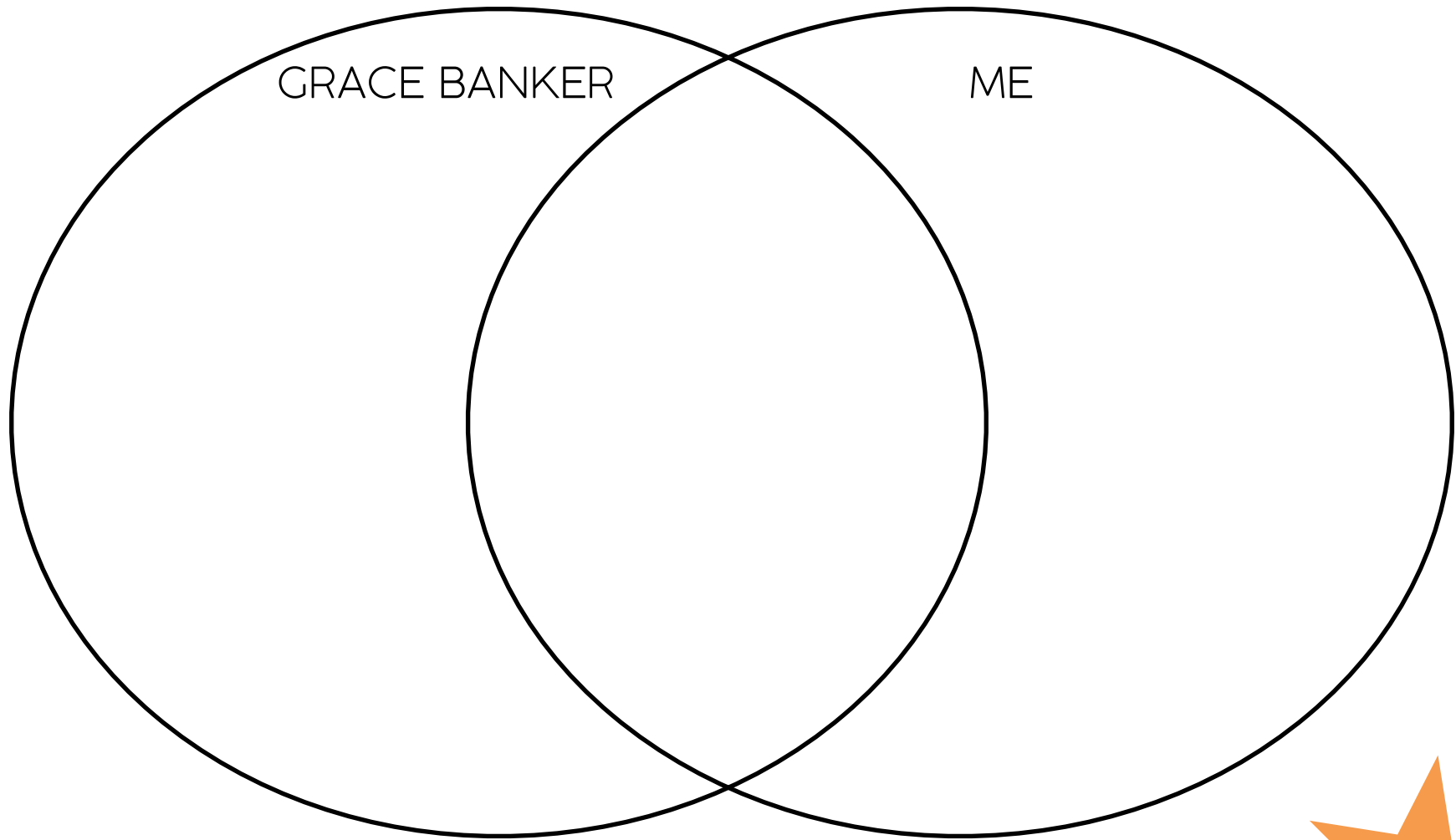
- Compound Words: make a word game from these compound words (separate, mix, and then find the compound words): *hardship, overseas, switchboard, sandbar, headquarters, homesick, doughboys, battlefield, rainstorm, postcard, leadership*
- Write and define the **-or** suffix for *translate, operate, direct, supervise, and educate*. How do these words relate to Grace Banker and Her Hello Girls?
- Action!: Write synonyms for these verbs. Make a matching game or create your own sentence using these words to describe a scene in the book: *march, drill, attack, blast, plug*.

## Number Please!

- How old would Grace Banker be today?
- How many years has it been since the end of WW I?
- The WW I Hello Girls connected over 26 million calls during the war. They connected 300 calls per hour. How many did they connect in a day? A week? a month?
- 223 operators were assigned to 6 units. Approximately how many were in each unit?
- 7,600 women volunteered to serve as operators in WW I. 350 received training and 223 sailed to France to serve. What percentage of women operators who volunteered were trained? What percentage of women served?



# Venn Diagram: Grace Banker

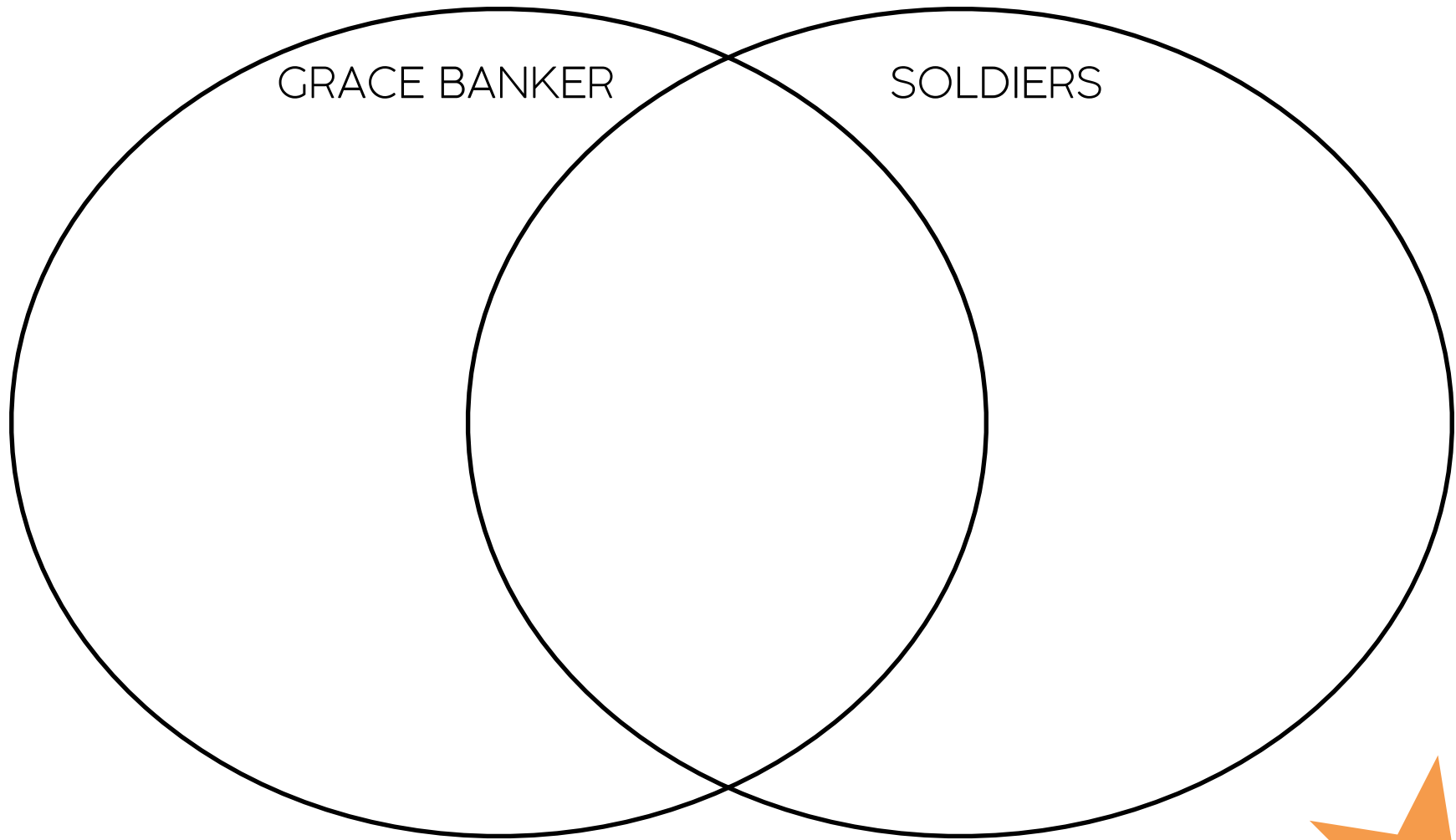


Think about the experiences of Grace Banker and then think about your own experiences. Do you have any similarities? Any Differences? List some similarities in the area where the circles intersect and differences in the other section of the ovals.





# Venn Diagram: Grace Banker



Think about the soldiers who were at war during the time Grace Banker was there. How were things different for them? How were they similar to what Grace Banker experienced? LIST THE SIMILARITIES WHERE THE SHAPES INTERSECT, AND DIFFERENCES IN THE OUTER AREAS OF THE OVALS.

