



AUGUST 2010 NEWSLETTER TIPS & ACTIVITIES

Use your imagination and your writing skills!

Imagine that it is 1943. You are going to be evacuated (or moved) from your home because of safety reasons. You may or may not know where you will be moving. You have to pack one suitcase with your clothes and belongings to last 12 months. What kinds of things would you pack to take with you? Why did you choose these things?

Part 2:

How would you pack your suitcase differently today? Make a new list and include all the items you would want to take with you from 2010. Remember it all has to fit in your suitcase and your belongings need to last you for a year. Think about why you chose these items.

To find out how a real boy from the 1940's dealt with this same situation, read *The No-No Boys* by Teresa Funke.

Do you know the definition of ration?

ra·tion

n.

1. A fixed portion, especially an amount of food allotted to persons in military service or to civilians in times of scarcity.

2. **rations** Food issued or available to members of a group.

tr.v. **ra·tioned, ra·tion·ing, ra·tions**

1. To supply with rations.

2. To restrict to limited allotments, as during wartime.

Government allocation of scarce resources and consumer goods, usually adopted during wars, famines, or other national emergencies.

During World War II, clothes were rationed because materials like wool and cotton had to be imported. Manufacturing clothes also took up valuable factory time which was better spent on the war effort.

Because of rationing, everyone was issued a ration book for clothes. There were 48 coupons in the book and they had to last the whole year. Some items, such as coats, took a lot of coupons. It was important for people to think carefully before using their coupons. To avoid wasting coupons, clothes were often mended, homemade or recycled. It has been four years since the war began and no doubt you would have grown a bit. Your clothes might have become a bit tattered too. Think about the list below, what would you mend, make from scratch or spend precious coupons on?

Pants

Your skirt with a rip on the side

Cookies

Socks with the hole in the toe

Car

Wooden toy

Candy

Wash clothes

Fence

Radio

Tools

Fabric

patterns

Book

Shoes that don't fit

Shoes that do fit

A dress that is too small

WWII Oatmeal Molasses Cookies

This is a recipe from the 1940's. These cookies use molasses in place of brown sugar, because sugar was one of the items rationed during the war.

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups oatmeal
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup shortening
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 5 tablespoons light molasses
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
- 1/2 cup raisins (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. In a large bowl, stir together the flour, oatmeal, baking soda, baking powder, and salt.
3. In another large bowl, beat the sugar with the shortening until smooth and creamy; mix in beaten eggs, molasses, and vanilla. Gradually mix in the dry ingredients. Stir in walnuts and raisins. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets.
4. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until slightly browned. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.