**Beautiful Blue World**
Suzanne LaFleur

**GENRE:** Historical Fiction (or Dystopian, depending on how you interpret it)

**BOOK SUMMARY**
In a fictional land during an unspecified time, war is on. All men are sent into combat; bombings occur daily, and twelve-year-old Mathilde’s school offers a special test for the older students. Any student who passes the test will be sent to help with the war effort—no questions asked and no information given. Mathilde is sure she will not pass the test; but her best friend, Meg, will surely ace it. When Mathilde is the one student who passes, she sets out on a journey into the unknown to do her part for the war effort.

**BOOK TALK**
If your country were at war, would you take a mysterious test that might mean leaving your family and friends to go to an unspecified place to help fight? Mathilde takes the test offered at her school only to keep her best friend company. When the results come back, she is shocked and unprepared for what comes next.

**LINKS TO HELPFUL WEBSITES**
- Author: [http://www.suzannelafleur.com/](http://www.suzannelafleur.com/)
- TeachingBooks.net through INSPIRE: [www.teachingbooks.net/qlf6cf9](http://www.teachingbooks.net/qlf6cf9)

**MAKERSPACE ACTIVITY**
Create a painting to illustrate the story using only shades of blue.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**
1. Do you see this book as a historical fiction story or a dystopian story? Explain.
2. If you were Mathilde, would you have taken the test, knowing that if you passed you would have to leave your family and friends to help with the war effort?
3. Do you think the book would have had a different impact if the author would have chosen to use real countries instead of fictional places?

**IF YOU ENJOYED THIS BOOK, YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE**
- **Historical Fiction:** *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Resource page created by 2019-20 YOUNG HOOSIER BOOK AWARD committee member:
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