* FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY *

Name _____ Date _____

# Enemies in the Orchard
# by Dana Vanderlugt

Includes Author Interview!

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

## What's It About?

It's October 1944, and while Claire's older brother, Danny, is off fighting in World War II, her dad hires a group of German POWs to help with the apple harvest on their farm. Claire wants nothing to do with the enemies in the orchard, until she meets soft-spoken, hardworking Karl. Could she possibly have something in common with a German soldier? Karl, meanwhile, grapples with his role in the war as he realizes how many lies Hitler's regime has spread—and his complacency in not standing up against them. But his encounters with Claire give him hope that he can change and become the person he wants to be. Inspired by the little-known history of POW labor camps in the United States, this lyrical verse novel is told in alternating first-person poems by two young people on opposite sides of the war. Against a vivid backdrop of home front tensions and daily life, intimate entries reveal Claire's and Karl's hopes and struggles, and their growing friendship even as the war rages on. What are their chances of connection, of redemption, of peace?

## Who Wrote It?

Dana VanderLugt is a writer and teacher who descends from a family of Michigan apple growers and storytellers. A former middle school English teacher, Dana now works as a literacy consultant and has an MFA in Creative Writing from The Sena Jeter Naslund-Karen Mann Graduate School of Writing at Spalding University. She lives in Michigan with her husband, three sons, and a spoiled golden retriever. And yes, she makes a mean apple pie.

Teachers! Dana has used her former middle school teacher skills to create an amazing educator's guide for using the novel in your classroom!

**Find it on her website: www.danavanderlugt.com**

AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

## WHAT I THINK

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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.