



The Language of Flowers

Since medieval times, certain flowers have had symbolic meanings and people like Lora would likely have been aware of what each flower meant. A bouquet of lilacs, for example, would celebrate the joy of youth.

Can you match the flower to its symbolism?

Flower

Daisy

Lemon balm

Morning glory

Nasturtium

Red rose

Zinnia

Symbolic Meaning

Patriotism

Love and desire

Thoughts of absent friends

Innocence

Sympathy

Affection

Answers

Daisy = Innocence

Lemon balm = Sympathy

Morning glory = Affection

Nasturtium = Patriotism

Red rose = Love

Zinnia = Thoughts of absent friends

Courtesy of The Old Farmer's Almanac

Escape to the Garden

In the early 20th century, the interest in gardening was hitting an all-time high as people tried to balance the new industrial world with a simpler way of life. Almost everyone with property had some sort of a garden, and got advice on how to design and grow it through the many new “women’s magazines” on the market including *House Beautiful*, *The Ladies’ Home Journal*, and *House and Garden*. There were gardens of every shape, size, and formality – water gardens, children’s gardens, English gardens, and winter gardens. The “wild garden,” which we know today as the natural garden, became increasingly popular. Carefully designed to look as if no human hand ever touched it, the wild garden was touted as the garden of the masses. As Neltje Blancham wrote in a 1908 issue of *The Ladies’ Home Journal*, the wild garden was “the garden of the million as well as the millionaire.”



The Ballou and Shultz families had gardens in their homes. Lora was also active in the newly-formed Garden Club of Montclair and the Presby Iris Gardens.

Interested in seeing early 20th century gardens? This summer, the NY Botanical Gardens is hosting an exhibition on American gardens (1910-1930) and

the women who designed them.