

Book Discussion Notes –Josefina Learns a Lesson – American Girl

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
1:30	Prayer & Introduction (A Student’s Prayer and Hail Mary)
1:40	Introduction
1:45	Roll call
1:50	Book Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Author Review ○ Discuss personal items relating to book ○ Historical Review and discussion, grinding the corn for cornmeal (Ch. 4) ○ Share favorite Character ○ Draw names for Play
2:10	Craft
2:40	Play Practice
3:15	Closing Prayer and Snack

Discussion:

Question	Answer
Title	
Author	
Year Written	
Setting - Time	
Setting – Place	

Characters:

Question	Answer
Protagonist(s) – Leading character, hero, or heroine of a drama or other literary work who traditionally, undergoes some sort of change (pushing something forward). –	
Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)	
Antagonist - An antagonist is one that contends with or opposes another, adversary or opponent, the villain. The antagonist of a story is the character that provides an obstacle for the protagonist.	
Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)	

Other Characters:

Who
Josefina
Papa
Ana
Francisca
Clara
Tia Dolores
Teresita

The Characters

- Which character do you identify with?
- Which do you *admire or dislike*?
- Who in this book would you most *like* to meet? What would you ask—or say?

The Story, the Plot and Your Experience

- Is the *plot well developed*? Is it believable?
- Does the book *remind you of someone*—or something—in your own life?

Title, Themes, Style and Symbolism

- How does the title *relate to the book*? Can you pick out a passage that's profound or interesting—or perhaps sums up the central issue of the book?

The Ending

- Did you *expect the ending* or did it *surprise* you?
- Was the ending *satisfying*? If you could *rewrite the ending*, would you?
- What ending would you have chosen for the story?

Do You Want to Read More?

- What is the *future of the characters' lives*?
 - Would it *make a good movie*? Is there a film adaptation of this book?
 - Do you think people will still be reading it in 10 years, 50 years or 100 years?
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- Are there any quotations from the book that you would like to share?
- Did you find any foreshadowing (to show or indicate beforehand, prefiguring)?
- Any interesting phrases?

Discussion Questions

- What was Tía Dolores helping the girls make?
- Who was the first one to finish?
- Tía Dolores gave the girls help and advice, but would she do the jobs for them? Why or why not?
- Why was Papá going to the village?
- What did it mean when the church bell rang?
- What was Josefina afraid of?
- Why did the girls need to gather things from the kitchen garden?
- What does Josefina learn to do in the story?
- In Josefina's time, did everybody go to school?
- In Josefina's time, was it common to own a book?
- Could Mama read when she was alive?
- Why did Papa use a fancy flourish when signing his name?
- What was Francisca worried about with some of the changes Tia Dolores was bringing to her home? What was she worried about forgetting?
- Will learning to read help Francisca to remember her Mama?
- What did Tia Dolores give Josefina to help remember her Mama?