

Book Discussion Notes –Josefina’s Surprise – American Girl

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
1:30	Prayer & Introduction
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

1. Why did Josefina say “No” to being Maria in Las Posadas?
2. What is Las Posadas?
3. Who is Nina and where is she?
4. What are ramilletes and who is making them?
5. What happened to Mamas Altar Cloth?
6. How did they fix the Altar Cloth?
7. What did the girls share during their mending of the Altar Cloth?
8. How did Josefina feel on the first night of Las Posadas?
9. What does Tia Dolores always say “that saints say about spare time.”?
10. What was the weather like on the Las Posadas?
11. Where did Josefina put the thimble?
12. Did Josefina get Nina Christmas?
13. Did Josefina end up being Maria?
14. Was Josefina nervous?
15. What was Josefina’s special prayer?
16. Did Josefina and her family have a Merry Christmas?
17. How do you say ‘Merry Christmas’ in Spanish?