

## Book Discussion Notes –Meet Josefina – American Girl

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

### Discussion:

Question	Answer
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Author</b>	
<b>Year Written</b>	
<b>Setting - Time</b>	
<b>Setting – Place</b>	

### Characters:

Question	Answer
<b>Protagonist(s)</b> – Leading character, hero, or heroine of a drama or other literary work who traditionally, undergoes some sort of change (pushing something forward). –	
<b>Adjectives to describe Protagonist(s)</b>	
<b>Antagonist</b> - 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.	
<b>Adjectives to describe Antagonist(s)</b>	

### Other Characters:

Who
Josefina
Papa
Ana
Francisca
Clara
Abuelito (Grandfather)
Tia Dolores
Florencia (The Goat)

### 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?

## **Chapter 1- Primroses**

1. In 1824, was New Mexico a part of the United States?
2. Did the men and boys have the same jobs as the women and girls? What were their jobs?
3. What was the trail that connected Santa Fe with other Mexican towns and cities?
4. What did the people in New Mexico trade for in Mexico City?
5. How long did it take a caravan to get from Santa Fe to Mexico City?
6. Was travel easy or hard? Why?
7. How did New Mexico become a part of the United States?

## **Chapter Two: "Abuelito's Surprise"**

1. Who planted the flowers in the courtyard?
2. What were the girls preparing for?
3. According to the story, was Josefina more like her Mamá or her Papá? How?
4. In the first chapter, we learned that Abuelito's caravan had been gone for over six months, traveling to Mexico City and back along the *Camino Real* to trade for goods and supplies. In what ways is this different from how we obtain goods and supplies today?
5. Tía Dolores had one thing in common with Mamá. What was it?
6. How did Tía Dolores's piano save Abuelito's life?

## **Chapter Three: "A Gift for Tía Dolores"**

1. What is a *fandango*?

2. What was Josefina's surprise for Tía Dolores?
3. Why couldn't Josefina and Clara dance?
4. What happened to the gift Josefina had for Tía Dolores?
5. How did Josefina learn that she had more courage than she had realized?

#### **Chapter Four: "Josefina's Idea"**

1. Describe where Josefina sleeps? How is this different from where you sleep?
2. Why do you think Josefina got up early to do her chores?
3. Tía Dolores brought gifts for the girls. What did she bring for Josefina?
4. What was Josefina's idea?
5. What commandment were the girls following by not allowing Francisca to tell Papa he must ask Tia Dolores to stay?
6. How did Josefina figure out that Tía Dolores would be back?

Source: <http://ylhfs.blogspot.com/>