

Literature Circle Questions

Use these questions and the activities that follow to get more out of the experience of reading *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech.

1. What does Sal say are the “real reasons” her grandparents are taking her to Idaho?
2. At the very end of the story, why does Sal say that she is jealous of Phoebe?
3. Why doesn't Sal like her new home in Euclid, Ohio? How is it different from her former home in Kentucky?
4. Sal says that her story is hidden behind Phoebe's. What do you think she means by this?
5. As Sal gets to know Phoebe and the Winterbottom family, she notices some odd things about their family. What does Sal notice, and why does she think that Mrs. Winterbottom is unhappy?
6. As you read, did any of the characters surprise you? Who turned out to be different than you first expected?
7. If you had a friend who was experiencing family problems like Sal and Phoebe, how would you try to help? What kind of advice would you give your friend?
8. In chapter 41, Sal remembers the time her dog Moody Blue had puppies. How does she compare Moody Blue's behavior to her mother's? What do we learn about Sal's mother through this comparison?
9. Of her Gram and Gramps Hiddle, Sal says, “My grandparents can get into trouble as easily as a fly can land on a watermelon.” What are some examples of this from the story?
10. What do Phoebe's and Sal's mothers have in common? Compare the two mothers, including their personalities, their problems, and their relationships with their children. How is Ben's mother like these other two mothers?
11. The title of the book comes from one of the mysterious messages Phoebe finds: "Never judge a man until you've walked two moons in his moccasins." In your own words, what does this message mean? Who in the story learns this lesson?
12. On the last night of his wife's life, Gramps Hiddle writes Gram a love letter, the only one he'd ever written. What do you think his letter said?
13. Imagine the Winterbottom family, including Mike, five years after the book has ended. How has the family changed? Has Phoebe learned to accept Mike? Is the Winterbottom's marriage different? Is Mrs. Winterbottom much happier now?

14. As the story progresses, we gradually learn about Sal's mother's story. Putting all the pieces of the story together, explain why Sugar Hiddle left her family. What thoughts and feelings do you think she was experiencing at the time she left?
15. As you were reading, what did you think happened to Sal's mother? Were you surprised by the ending? Why do you think the author kept this outcome hidden until the very end?

Note: These literature circle questions are keyed to Bloom's taxonomy as follows: Knowledge: 1-2; Comprehension: 3-5; Application: 6-7; Analysis: 9-10; Synthesis: 11-13; Evaluation: 14-15.

Activities

1. In this story, we learn about the meaning behind Sal's full name – Salamanca Tree Hiddle. What do you know about the meaning of your name? If you don't already know, use a reference book to find out more about what your name means. Why did your parents choose your name for you? Were you named for someone? Why are names important? Write an essay about the significance of your name.
2. Trace a map of the United States, and mark Sal's journey west from Kentucky to Lewiston, Idaho. Draw symbols to indicate important landmarks and geographical features that Sal visited along the way. How does Sal's geographical journey represent an emotional journey for her as well?
3. In his sixth grade class, Mr. Birkway asks his students to draw their souls. How would you draw your soul? Take five minutes or less to draw your soul, and then compare your drawing with a friend's. Do you think this is a good assignment? Explain why or why not.

Other Books by This Author:

Love That Dog, HarperTrophy, 2003
Granny Torrelli Makes Soup, Joanna Cotler, 2003
Ruby Holler, Harper Trophy, 2003
The Wanderer, Harper Trophy, 2002
Bloomability, Harper Trophy, 1999
Chasing Redbird, Harper Trophy, 1998
Absolutely Normal Chaos, Harper Collins, 1997
Pleasing the Ghost, Harper Trophy, 1997

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