

The Josefina Story Quilt Study Guide

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For the book by
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Synopsis

When Faith's family packs their covered wagon for the long journey to California, there is no room for Faith's pet hen, Josefina. She is too old to lay eggs and too tough to eat. But Faith's father allows her to bring Josefina along on the trip provided that Josefina makes no trouble. As the wagon train begins the journey, Faith starts working on patches for a quilt that will tell the story of their trip.

In spite of Faith's promises to keep her pet out of trouble, Josefina nearly causes a stampede and falls in the river during a river crossing. Faith's father is ready to get rid of the chicken, but Josefina suddenly begins laying eggs again, and she is allowed to stay.

Soon the voyage becomes harder and food becomes scarce. Although Indians offer to trade meat and water for the family's quilts and for Josefina, Faith and her mother refuse. Josefina proves her worth when two robbers creep into camp to steal. The chicken's loud cackling wakes the family and the robbers run away. But the difficult journey is hard on Faith's pet. Josefina dies and Faith buries her along the trail.

When the family reaches California, they take the patches made during the trip and stitch them into a quilt. The patches of the quilt remind Faith of the good times and the bad times on the wagon train, and especially of Josefina.

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7. As the family travels through the desert, they have to lighten the wagon load for the oxen. What does Pa throw out? _____

Do you think it was hard for Pa and Ma to give them up? Why or why not?

8. When the Indians come to trade, what do they want? What does Pa trade with them for food and water? _____

9. Faith prays that the Indians won't return. Why? Is her prayer answered? _____

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10. Read the following verses:

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1 John 5:14

“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

Read Matthew 7: 9–11

Does God hear all our prayers? Does he give us everything we ask for? Why or why not? _____

Discuss with your teacher: What does it mean to pray according to God’s will? What are *good* gifts? Do we always know what is best for us?

11. What happens in the night? What does Josefina do? _____

Answer Key

Note: Most of the questions in Progeny Press study guides deal with students' understanding and interpretation of issues in the novel; therefore, most answers will be individual to the student. Progeny Press answer keys are designed to be as inclusive as possible for the teacher and/or parent, giving enough background and information to judge whether the student has grasped the essence of the issue and the question. We try to point out some directions students' answers might take, which directions might be best, and some errors that may appear. Students are not expected to answer as completely as the answers provided in the Answer Key.

Before-you-read Activities

2. cow: the adult female of cattle; ox: a steer used as a work animal.
4. A story quilt is a quilt upon which the quilter has stitched patches or pictures which taken together tell a story.
5. Answers will vary.

Vocabulary

Multiple Choice:

1. b; 2. a; 3. a; 4. c; 5. a; 6. c; 7. a; 8. c; 9. c; 10. b; 11. a.

Action Words:

1. threw; 2. spread; 3. picked; 4. stroked; 5. shouted; 6. snapped; 7. clanked; 8. smiled.



Looking at the Story

Part One:

1. Faith asks to take Josefina, her pet hen, to California. Pa says there is no room in the wagon for pets. Josefina is too old to lay eggs and too tough to eat.
2. Ma calls the wagon "a big flowerpot on wheels."
3. Ma gives Pa a special look.
4. These verses tell us to obey our parents and to what they tell us to do, with respect. Answers will