



The Josefina Story Quilt

By Eleanor Coerr, pictures by Bruce Degen

GRL L

ABOUT THE BOOK:

As Faith and her family load their covered wagon and prepare to move to California, Faith knows she can't take her best friend, her hen Josefina. There simply isn't enough room. But she can't bear to leave Josefina behind, so she convinces her stern father to allow her to bring the hen. Josefina causes trouble on the trail—then she proves her worth to the family and Faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. On page 23, the text says, "Faith knew how important quilts were for remembering." What does this mean? Consider the entire story. What things might the quilt help Faith remember, and why might these be important to remember? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*
2. What would you say is the central message, lesson, moral, or theme of this story? Is there more than one? If so, discuss each. Explain your answers using several details from the book. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.2., RL.1.2., RL.2.2., RL.3.2.*
3. How would you characterize Faith, her mother, her father, and Josefina? How does each affect the other? How does each respond to challenges in the story? How do their responses affect the story overall? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.3., RL.1.3., RL.2.3., RL.3.3.*
4. Read the author's note at the end of this story. What do you learn from it? How do the characters and the events in the story compare to the facts in the author's note? For example, what does the author's note say about school? Does Faith's experience of schooling seem accurate? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*

Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening) that discussions might also address: SL.K.1a-b., SL.1.1a-c., SL.2.1a-c., SL.3.1a-d., SL.K.6., SL.1.6., SL.2.6., SL.3.6.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Family Quilt Diary: With help from your teacher, choose or design quilt patchwork patterns that show something about your family, such as important family members, events, or hopes. Once you sew or draw these patterns, write or dictate how each tells the story of your family. Put your Family Quilt Diary together as a quilt, a poster, or a book, and display it in your classroom. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2a., W.3.2b., W.3.2c., W.3.2d.*

A True Pet Tale: Think of a true story about your pet or a pet you'd like to own. What is the pet? How does it look, sound, and smell? Why is the pet important to you, or how might it be important to you in the future? Once you've brainstormed answers to these questions, write, draw, or dictate your own wonderful True Pet Tale. When you're finished, share it with your friends and family. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.3., W.1.3., W.2.3., W.3.3a., W.3.3b., W.3.3c., W.3.3d.*

News Flash—Pioneer Report: Pretend you are a reporter writing a story about American pioneers. With your teacher's aid, research the pioneers who traveled from places such as Missouri to California. Research why they decided to travel so far, as well as their biggest challenges. Also, find out how they interacted with the native peoples who lived in the regions through which they traveled. After you've completed all your research, write, dictate, or draw your News Flash—Pioneer Report. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2a., W.3.2b., W.3.2c., W.3.2d.*

Bring the Hen Opinion Piece: Does the family make the right decision when it chooses to bring Josefina on the long journey? Why or why not? Gather evidence from the story to support your opinion. Using your evidence, write, dictate, or draw what you think and why. Once you've completed your Bring the Hen opinion piece, read it to your friends and family—see if you can convince them that you're right. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.1., W.1.1., W.2.1., W.3.1a., W.3.1b., W.3.1c., W.3.1d.*

Common Core State Standards (Writing) that writing activities might also address: W.K.5., W.1.5., W.2.5., W.3.5., W.K.6., W.1.6., W.2.6., W.3.6.

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