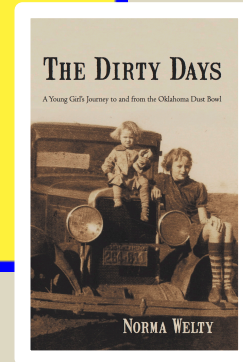


# Mother Daughter Book Club



Here are several discussion questions and activities for a variety of ages. Choose those that you feel are appropriate for your daughter's age and of interest to both of you. Many of the questions and activities provide opportunities to involve fathers and sons, too.

## Optional Discussion Questions for a Mother Daughter Book Club

### Daughters Approximately 9-12

- Would you like to discuss ways in which Molly's second-grade school building differed from yours? How about the health habits sessions Molly experienced in sixth grade and the ways in which they compare to subjects you have studied in school?
- What is smallpox? A black widow spider? A water moccasin? A centipede? These are some of the "dangers" that Molly had to deal with growing up. Talk about some frightening things you have had to deal with in your lifetime?
- Imagine what your life would be like without an indoor toilet, running water, or electricity. How would your life be different?
- Molly admired Shirley Temple. Was Shirley Temple real? Why do you think she was so popular among young girls in the 1930s? Who (that is famous) do you admire—and why?

### Daughters Approximately 13-17

- Molly worried a great deal about her appearance. Can you site ways in which Molly overcame her self-doubts as a high school girl? If you have ever had self-doubts, how did you overcome them?
- Molly describes her first date with a local boy named Garrett. Why was Molly upset about that night? Did she handle it well? Have you ever been pushed to do something beyond what was comfortable for you?

- Molly often wished for store-bought dresses and envied the few well-off farm girls who could afford beautiful clothes and beauty shop perms. The ability to dress well, bathe more than once a week, and eat bakery-bread sandwiches, was a luxury Molly's family could not afford. How did Molly manage under the circumstances? How would you have managed?
- Imagine growing up in the 1930s during the Great Depression in a desolate, drought-stricken land with no telephone, no television, no air conditioning, no computers, no iphones, or ipods or ipads. Consider the technology you have today that you may unknowingly take for granted. Compare and contrast your "luxuries" with Molly's basics.
- What was the stock market crash of 1929? What was the Great Depression? How do you think children and teenagers who lived through those times were affected by those two major events in history? How do those two historical events compare to economic events today?

### **Optional Activities for a Mother Daughter Book Club**

- What did cars look like in the 1930s? How fast do you think a 1930s car could go? What kind of gas mileage did a 1930s car get? Compare a 1930s car to your family vehicle.
- If you would enjoy doing so, draw an aerial view you might see from an airplane window of the farm Molly grew up on. Imagine the layout of the house, barn, chicken coop, fields, pasture, the well, and the creek. You may include the dirt road on which Molly walked to and from her school bus, as well as the gas station on the corner.
- Design your own flour sack dress. Sketch a pattern or draw a design of your choosing.
- Find some pages from an old Sears catalog from the 1930s-1940s online. Check out the prices for many of the items. How do these prices compare to prices for the same items today?
- Would you like to try canning some vegetables? Here's a link with instructions on "How to Can Corn": <http://www.pickyourrown.org/howtocancorn.htm>

- Some of young Molly's favorite book titles:
  - *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
  - *The Good Earth* by Pearl Buck
  - *A House Divided* by Pearl Buck
  - *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
  - *So Big* by Edna Ferber
  - *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
  
- Talk to your grandparents or great-grandparents about their experiences in the Dust Bowl, the Great Depression, and WWII.
  
- Check online for videos and pictures of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression.
  
- Molly's days in the Dust Bowl ended when she moved to Oklahoma City to work as a genuine Rosie the Riveter in a defense plant during WWII. Research "Rosie the Riveter" stories online and in the library. How did women like Molly in the late 1930s and early 1940s help change the future role of women in this country?