



TEACHERS' DISCUSSION GUIDE

Essie Rose's Revelation Summer by Deanie Yasner

Essie Rose Ginsberg learned a lot about life from her best friend and housekeeper, Pearlie May Gibbs. Let's see what we can learn from **Pearlie May's Half Dozen Words of Wisdom**.

1. Don't Fret

- a. What things did Essie Rose fret about?
- b. How did the Worry Jar help Essie Rose stop fretting? What other methods did she use?
- c. What do you do to stop fretting? Would any of Essie Rose's methods work for you?

2. Be Kind

- a. Essie Rose showed a lot of kindness to her friend Moses Brownridge. Give three examples you noticed.
- b. Bullying is the opposite of being kind. Why do you think Donna Sue and Mary Jo bullied Essie Rose?
- c. How did Essie Rose respond to the mean girls' bullying at the beginning of the book? How did her response to them change by the end of the book?
- d. Can a person stand up for themselves and be kind at the same time? Why or why not?

3. Practice Patience

- a. Why is patience important?
- b. How did Essie Rose act when she was being impatient? How do you act?
- c. "Practice" patience implies it is something we have to learn how to do. How can we work at learning to be more patient?

4. Don't Let Wrongs Fester

- a. Letting wrongs fester is similar to holding a grudge. What happens to us when we do not deal with people who do unkind things to us?
- b. Sometimes we have to tell people they've hurt us, and sometimes it is kinder to just ignore their actions and forgive them. How can you decide when to do one or the other?
- c. What can you do if someone has hurt you on purpose and doesn't care?

5. Mind Your Mouth

- a. Words have great power. Why is it important to think before we speak?
- b. How do you decide which things to say, and which things to keep in your head?
- c. How can we learn to control what we say?

6. Shore Up Your Courage to Do the Right Thing

- a. The quote at the beginning of the books says, "It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are." What does that mean?
- b. What was Essie Rose's greatest act of courage?
- c. Did reading this story give you courage to be your best self? If so, how? If not, why not?

**Essie Rose Ginsberg's
Ten Tips for Writing
(plus one for good measure)**

1. Write a little every day
2. Don't fret whether it's good or bad
3. Become an observer
4. Take time out to daydream
5. Read, read, read
6. Play with words
7. Keep a "fact and feelings" diary
8. Take pictures
9. Spend thinking-on time about interesting people, places, and situations. Imagine what could happen if you turn them upside down or inside out.
10. Have fun

Plus one for good measure: *Be brave! Dare to create.*