

Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you try one of the recipes? If so, which one? How was it?
2. What did you think about all of the foods on a waffle?
3. Primrose has many adults influencing her life. Which was your favorite and why?
4. Why do you think the author wrote that Primrose lost her finger and toe? Was it just an event or was it a symbol of anything?
5. Primrose asked a few adults if they had ever known anything deep inside. Have you ever known anything deep inside as Primrose did? Is it possible to know something deep inside?
6. If you wrote a sequel to this story, what would happen next?
7. What would you like served on a waffle?
8. Here are the definitions of perfidy and primrose. Could there be a special reason why the author chose the names perfidy and primrose? What would it be? Does your name have a special meaning also?
9. Why do you think that cooking was so important to Primrose that she included a recipe at the end of each chapter?
10. I thought that Primrose had an unusual vocabulary for an 11 year old. Here are some of the words that I thought were unusual: p. 7 anecdote, p. 46 vivisecting, p. 76 macabre, and p. 74 discomfiture. Did you think Primrose's vocabulary was different than many 11 year olds? Why or why not?
11. Was there anything in the story that made you laugh?
12. Were there any places in the story where you thought that Primrose was detached and unemotional when many children would have been upset and crying?
13. Did anything in the story make you angry?
14. Is there any special reason why Miss Bowzer serves waffles? Would you like to eat there?
15. Evie and Bert lose their possessions when their townhouse burns down. What did you think of their reaction to this loss? Would you feel the same if your home burned? What possessions would you move to safety first if you had time?
16. Was there a character who you thought was very smart? What made you think so?
17. On pages 24-25, Uncle Jack thinks that replacing whaling with tourism is a big favor. Do you agree or not and why?
18. What did you think of Uncle Jack's description of business risks and rewards? Does it sound like an interesting career to you? Why or why not?
19. Miss Bowzer was upset that there was going to be a "big soulless drugstore that doesn't know you and doesn't care." Primrose "didn't see how that was going to be worse than the Cantinas, who did know you and didn't care." Pretend that you were there. What would you say about this issue?
20. On page 130, Primrose tells Miss Bowzer that the only really interesting thing about a person is their heart. Do you agree? Or how would you describe what makes a person interesting? What is it about someone that makes you want to get to know them?

21. Would you be willing to describe one or two of the most interesting characters with only two or three words?
22. Would you please tell us what, if anything, Primrose learned from some of the characters or from her experiences?
23. If you could speak with the author, is there anything you would like to ask her?