

Keeper of the Light by Patricia Curtis Pfitsch

Discussion Questions:

1. Let's list differences between acceptable behavior for Faith and acceptable behavior for a young teen girl today.
2. On page 13, Faith's mother mentions the responsibilities of a grown woman. Please compare responsibilities for men and women in 1872 when this story took place.
3. How was Faith's life different at the light and in the town?
4. Was there a point in the story where you felt proud of a character?
5. Was anything in the story confusing?
6. Faith realizes that she feels at ease with Cassie and Cassie's mother. On page 52, she shares that she is not comfortable with her cousin Sarah. Please help us understand why we feel comfortable with some people and not with others.
7. Did anything in the story surprise you?
8. Willie told Faith that their mother knew that she had skipped school. She folds her arms across her chest to feel strong. If you were her friend, Cassie, what comfort or encouragement would you give to Faith as she leaves you to go home and face her mother?
9. Did anything in the story make you angry?
10. Did you feel sad about anything in the story?
11. On page 86, Faith wonders if Cassie would still want to be her friend if Faith became the kind of woman her mother wanted her to become. Pretend that Faith asked you this question. How would you answer her?
12. Please pretend that you are the publisher. Would you ask the author to write a sequel? If so, what should it be about?
13. Faith's position as lighthouse keeper is a promise to keep the light burning. She also promised her mother to try to be a lady. What happens when these promises conflict? How should a person choose between conflicting promises?
14. Obviously, living in town is very different for Faith than living at the lighthouse. The lighthouse point is "home" for her. What kinds of things make a place "home" for someone? I'm wondering which of those Faith could find in town?
15. Why is Faith upset when Mr. Chesterfield calls her mother by her first name? How would you react if a stranger called your mother by her first name?
16. Faith likes the solitude of the lighthouse point, but her mother feels lonely there. What is the difference between solitude and loneliness? If your family moved to a similar home, would you be lonely or enjoy the solitude?
17. Did you think that at one point, Faith felt partly responsible for her father's death? Why or why not? If you were her friend and she shared these feelings with you, how would you comfort her?
18. Could we please list some differences in the personalities of Faith and her mother? Sometimes when a parent and a child are very different, there can be some struggles. What words of wisdom can you give to help two people who love each other learn to respect their differences?