

# *The Josefina Story Quilt Study Guide*

by Rebecca Gilleland



For the book by  
Eleanor Coerr

**CD Version**



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**The Josefina Story Quilt Study Guide**

A Progeny Press Study Guide

by Rebecca Gilleland

with Andrew Clausen

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PO Box 100, Fall Creek, WI 54742-0100.

Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN 978-1-58609-289-4

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## Synopsis

When Faith's family packs their covered wagon for the long journey to California, there is no room for Faith's pet hen, Josefina. She is too old to lay eggs and too tough to eat. But Faith's father allows her to bring Josefina along on the trip provided that Josefina makes no trouble. As the wagon train begins the journey, Faith starts working on patches for a quilt that will tell the story of their trip.

In spite of Faith's promises to keep her pet out of trouble, Josefina nearly causes a stampede and falls in the river during a river crossing. Faith's father is ready to get rid of the chicken, but Josefina suddenly begins laying eggs again, and she is allowed to stay.

Soon the voyage becomes harder and food becomes scarce. Although Indians offer to trade meat and water for the family's quilts and for Josefina, Faith and her mother refuse. Josefina proves her worth when two robbers creep into camp to steal. The chicken's loud cackling wakes the family and the robbers run away. But the difficult journey is hard on Faith's pet. Josefina dies and Faith buries her along the trail.

When the family reaches California, they take the patches made during the trip and stitch them into a quilt. The patches of the quilt remind Faith of the good times and the bad times on the wagon train, and especially of Josefina.

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9. The night was bitter cold.

Bitter means \_\_\_\_.

- a. barely
- b. icy and snowy
- c. harsh or cruel

10. She and Faith bundled in old blankets.

To be bundled is to be \_\_\_\_.

- a. laid on
- b. wrapped tightly
- c. curled up

11. “. . . she is a humdinger of a watchdog.”

A humdinger is \_\_\_\_.

- a. a special person or thing
- b. a loud person or thing
- c. a silly person or thing

**Action Words:**

Read each of the following sentences:

Ma was baking bread for the long journey.

Pa and Faith’s brother, Adam, were loading the wagon.

Faith’s eyes filled with tears.

Faith gulped down her sobs.

The underlined words in the sentences above are action words. They tell us what action is taking place in the story. These action words are called *verbs*. Each of the sentences on the next page is missing a verb. Find these sentences in the second chapter of *The Josefina Story Quilt*, “California Ho!” Write the missing verb in the blank space in each sentence.

## Looking at the Story

### Part Two:

Read the rest of *The Josefina Story Quilt*. Answer the following questions.

1. Why does Josefina go running into the middle of the animals? Is it Josefina's fault? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. The book says that true friends understand one another. What is a true friend?

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Do you think true friends understand one another? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Read Proverbs 17:17:

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Look up adversity in a dictionary. Write the definition here. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What does this verse tell us about friendship? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What was it that Josefina did not like at all? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. After Josefina falls in the river, Pa decides that she has to go. Why does he change his mind? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. As the family travels through the desert, they have to lighten the wagon load for the oxen. What does Pa throw out? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you think it was hard for Pa and Ma to give them up? Why or why not?

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8. When the Indians come to trade, what do they want? What does Pa trade with them for food and water? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Faith prays that the Indians won't return. Why? Is her prayer answered? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Read the following verses:

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1 John 5:14

“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

Read Matthew 7: 9–11

Does God hear all our prayers? Does he give us everything we ask for? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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Discuss with your teacher: What does it mean to pray according to God’s will? What are *good* gifts? Do we always know what is best for us?

11. What happens in the night? What does Josefina do? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Dig Deeper

1. Look back through the book. Describe three hardships or troubles the family went through on their journey.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did Josefina help the family? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Read the following verses carefully. Look up hard words in a dictionary if needed.

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 121: 1, 2

. . . God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Hebrews 13: 5b

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Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4: 6, 7

Where do these verses say that our help comes from? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does God promise to keep us safe from all troubles? \_\_\_\_\_

What does He promise? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Write down each of the quilt blocks the story tells us that Faith is making. What does each one help her remember?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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5. The story quilt helped Faith's family remember the good times and the bad times on the wagon train. Why would it be important to remember both the good times *and* the bad times? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. God has given us the Bible to help us remember many important lessons and events. List two or three of your favorite verses or stories from the Bible.

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Answer Key

## Before-you-read Activities

2. cow: the adult female of cattle; ox: a steer used as a work animal.
4. A story quilt is a quilt upon which the quilter has stitched patches or pictures which taken together tell a story.
5. Answers will vary.

## Vocabulary

### Multiple Choice:

1. b; 2. a; 3. a; 4. c; 5. a; 6. c; 7. a; 8. c;

S D S M I L E D D D R  
H E W T H R E W Y N E  
O M N S A N C L E M S  
U S T R O K E D I A P  
T N I S C M E L S E R  
E A F R T U L A H E E  
D P I C K E D Y H E A  
R P E W C L A N K E D  
N E I A N S B U Y T E  
S D M J O S E F I N A

## Looking at the Story

### Part One:

1. Faith asks to take Josefina, her pet hen, to California. Pa says there is no room in the wagon for pets. Josefina is too old to lay eggs and too tough to eat.
2. Ma calls the wagon “a big flowerpot on wheels.”
3. Ma gives Pa a special look.
4. These verses tell us to obey our parents and to what they tell us to do, with respect. Answers will vary, but may include respecting parents, obeying them cheerfully without complaining, and treating them well.
5. Faith’s mother tells Faith to work on a quilt patch whenever she can.
6. Faith obeys her mother cheerfully. She smiles at Josefina and begins to sew her first patch.
7. Answers will vary.
8. Answers will vary.

## Looking at the Story