

Finding Mother Series

Book 4 - Diary of Emotions

Extended Discussion & Critical Thinking

Use these questions to extend comprehension, encourage thoughtful discussion, strengthen writing and critical-thinking skills, and make connections to the memoir.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think Grace should keep calling and sending things to her mother? Why or why not?
2. Do you believe Grace has forgiven her mother for leaving her when she was two years old? Why or why not?
3. How does a mother just abandon her children and not want to be with them when they find her? Discuss your thoughts about this.
4. Do you think Mother will feel sad if Grace never calls again, even though she has Grace's phone number but never calls her? Discuss your response.
5. Do you think Grace would have had a happier life if her mentally ill mother would have never abandoned her?
6. Grace feels like her mother does not really want, or need, her in her life? Discuss your thoughts about this.
7. Grace's father expected her mother to do all the things he expected from a wife, even though she had a mental illness. What do you think about his expectations? Discuss your response.
8. What if Grace's only opportunity to bring her mother to live closer, was after her mother could no longer care for herself? Do you feel Grace should jump at the opportunity to bring her mother closer under those circumstances?
9. What are your thoughts about Grace's decision not to search for her other siblings at this time?
10. Grace felt guilty about sending her mother the cigarettes she asked for, because she believed they are not good for her health. She did not say that to her mother because she felt like she did not know her mother well enough and she did not want to come off as being judgmental. Should she have just said it anyway? Why or Why not?

Questions Teachers Can Ask

Critical Thinking / In-depth Comprehension / Writing Skills / Technology Skills

1. What is the main idea or learning experience of the book?
2. Write your thoughts or feelings about the story.
3. Summarize your favorite part of the book and tell why this was your favorite part.
4. Write about an experience in your personal life and tell how it is similar to this story.
5. Write a new summary for the book.
6. To whom would you recommend this book? Why?

7. How can the information in the story be useful in your life or future?
8. Research a famous or infamous person on the computer who was abandoned by their mother, and write a report about that person's life.
9. Research a famous or infamous person on the computer who suffered from a mental illness, and write a report about that person's life.
10. Find a book in the library written by an author who has published their personal diary, and discuss how that book is different from this one.

Dr. Grace LaJoy Henderson | Finding Mother Series