



Stella by Starlight

by Sharon M. Draper

TIPS FOR FAMILY BOOK CLUB:

Set up the book club meeting for success. Encourage all opinions and a judgment-free discussion. Remind family members to take turns speaking, and that when others are speaking, listening is respectful.

As you begin answering questions, it's helpful to show your children that your answers are informed by information in the book. You might say, "I think XYZ because of the time that ABC happened." Perhaps reference a specific page or passage.

Finally, to get all participants involved, print out these questions and take turns reading the questions to the group.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why is it important to Papa that he register to vote?
2. Papa says, "Sometimes bravery is just doin' what you gotta do." What's your definition of bravery?
Who in this story is brave, and what makes you think so?
3. Stella struggles with her writing and works hard to improve it. Why do you think she doesn't give up?
Share a time in your own life when you, like Stella, have had to be persistent to overcome a challenge.
4. The schools in Stella's town are segregated. What else in the story is segregated, either officially or unofficially?
5. What do you think Spoon Man's chicken and eagle story is really about? Is it a metaphor?
6. Talk about a time you've experienced or observed racism. Is what Stella endured still happening today?
7. Stella wonders if kids grow up to be like their parents. What does she decide? What do you think?
8. It can be scary to stand up for what's right. Have you ever had to stand up for what is right even though you feared the consequences?
9. Can you think of all the occasions throughout the story when members of Stella's community come together to support one another, both in good times and in bad? What does this tell you about the strength of her community?
10. This book is based on the life of the author's grandmother. If you could write the story of one of your relatives, whose story would it be, and what would it be about?