



## *The Penderwicks*

by Jeanne Birdsall

While most older readers can read *The Penderwicks* independently, it is also a perfect book to read snuggled up together at bedtime.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The sisters and Jeffrey love to do many things — explore, play, read, and write. Which of their summer activities do you also like to do?
2. Jeffrey saves Batty's life, so now the sisters consider him part of the family. What do you think about this? What would someone need to do to be in your family?
3. If you wrote a Sabrina Starr story, what would it be about? Who would Sabrina save?
4. Churchie's kindness balances out Mrs. Tifton's sternness. Why do you think the author did this? What is that like for Jeffrey?
5. Mr. Penderwick says that *"People sometimes make unexpected choices when they're lonely."* Why do you think he says this about Mrs. Tifton?
6. Mrs. Tifton doesn't listen to Jeffrey. How do you think this makes him feel? Has this ever happened to you in your own family? What did you or could you do to work it out?
7. When Skye overhears Mrs. Tifton talking rudely about the Penderwick family and their mother, she loses her temper. What would you have done in that situation?
8. What would you do if Jeffrey ran away to your house? Do you think the sisters did the right thing by hiding him?
9. What does Rosalind realize about her crush on Cagney as she's leaving Arundel? How did this experience change her?
10. What do you think about Batty's good-bye present to Jeffrey? What does this gift mean? What good-bye present would you have left for Jeffrey?