

READING GROUP GUIDE



SECRET SUFFRAGETTE

by Barbara Mitchelhill

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ABOUT THE BOOK:

Daisy's hero is Florence Nightingale, and she hopes to one day become a nurse just like her. But as a girl growing up in the East End of London in 1912, it seems like all her future holds is dropping out of school to work a tough job in a factory for very little money.

Then Daisy meets the suffragettes, who are fighting for the rights of women and the poor. They show her that she might be able to achieve her dreams after all. But being a suffragette is dangerous, and Daisy must risk getting in trouble with her dad, neighbours and even the police if she wants to do her bit.

QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR READING GROUPS

'Think about how life could be different for us and our children.' Family is important in *Secret Suffragette*. Discuss the different ways in which Daisy's family support one another, and the ways in which they struggle to make ends meet.

Discuss the theme of bravery in *Secret Suffragette*. What different ways are the characters brave in the story?

Daisy can only help the suffragette cause in secret because her father has forbidden her to help them. Do you think she is right to rebel against him? What would you do in this situation?

Daisy comes into contact with people from different social classes during *Secret Suffragette*. Compare the O'Doyles, Mrs Stanbury and Lady Pointer and discuss how class matters in this story.

Many of the suffragettes were imprisoned and went on hunger strike. Find out about different civil rights campaigns in the twentieth century in the UK and abroad.

Write a diary entry about a day in the life of a girl living in the poor East End of London in 1912. Describe what you do during the day – do you go to school, or do you have to work? Imagine your home, what your family has to eat, and what games you play.

In what ways have things improved for children and women since 1912? What things still need to change?

Find out more about the votes for women campaign in the time before the war and create a poster about the different things women did in order to win the vote.



OTHER BOOKS BY BARBARA MITCHELHILL:

