

Voices in St. Augustine

By Jane R. Wood

Discussion Questions

Chapter 1

Does your brother or sister sometimes “borrow” your things?

Do you sometimes “borrow” someone else’s things?

Do you like history? Why or why not.

Chapter 2

Do you do things with your grandparents or other adults in your family?

What have you learned from an older person?

Do you have a pet? Has it ever “escaped”?

Chapter 3

What is your household like on a Saturday morning?

What are your favorite things to do on the weekend?

Do you think it’s important that we have weekends?

Chapter 4

What kind of things has your family done together that made nice memories?

Have you ever visited St. Augustine or another city that has a rich history?

Who was Ponce de Leon and why is his statue in St. Augustine?

Have you ever taken a ghost tour?

Chapter 5

Have you ever taken a tour of an old house? What were some of the things you saw?

How did people try to stay cool before air-conditioning was invented?

Why was the kitchen built as a separate building?

How did the early settlers get food?

Chapter 6

What kinds of plants grow in Florida?

How does climate affect how plants grow?

Chapter 7

What words and comments did the two boys behind the wall make that sounded strange?

Discuss foreshadowing. What kinds of hints were given that could affect the outcome of the story?

What does the phrase “No Guts, No Glory” mean? Is that a good attitude to have?

Chapter 8

How does Joey find information about St. Augustine and the houses there?

How did people find information before computers?

Why do mothers not want their children to be “offensive”?

How do we learn proper behavior?

Chapter 9

If you had millions of dollars like Bobby dreams about, what would you do with it?

Chapter 10

Do you play on a sports team, or do you have a favorite professional sports team?

Why is it important that places like research libraries preserve old documents, photographs, and artifacts?

Who were the Minorcans and why did the move to St. Augustine?

Chapter 11

Is it important to have things like war memorials and historic markers?

Who were the Huguenots and why did they have a separate cemetery?

Have you ever had a chocolate alligator? What is your favorite candy?

Chapter 12

What kind of things do you do when you're trying "to figure something out"?

Chapter 13

Do you know any people who are called "eccentric"?

Chapter 14

What are some of the things that "we can't explain"?

Chapter 15

What are some ways that you can get information on a topic?

What is the Pulitzer Prize? What is the Nobel Prize?

At the end of Chapter 15 it says, "Just when you're having a really lousy day, something wonderful happens to turn everything around." Has that ever happened to you?

Chapter 16

How did the early settlers get news?

Why were there Indian uprisings in Florida?

Chapter 17

Why do they call Boston bean town?

Chapter 18

What was school like for the early settlers?

How has school changed today?

Chapter 19

What is coquina? Where did they get it for the fort? And why did they use it?

Chapter 20

What happened to Robbie?

Do you think Joey will have more adventures in the future?