

A Family Apart

by Joan Lowery Nixon

Classroom Favorites

Teacher's Guide written by Katherine Lambert-Scronce

A Perma-Bound Production

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joan Lowery Nixon is the acclaimed author of more than eighty books for children and young adults. She is a three-time winner of the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award and the recipient of many Children's Choice awards. Popular books for young adults include *In The Face Of Danger*, *Caught In The Act*, and *A Place To Belong*, the other books in the Orphan Train Quartet for which she received two Golden Spur Awards, and *The Hollywood Daughters* trilogy, as well as *High Trail To Danger* and its companion novel, *A Deadly Promise*. Mrs. Nixon is currently working on her new Ellis Island novels.

Mrs. Nixon and her husband live in Houston, Texas.

FROM THE REVIEWS

"This is as close to a perfect book as you'll buy this year. The plot is rational and well-paced; the characters are real and believable; the time setting important to U.S. history, and the values all that anyone could ask for."

—*Voice of Youth Advocates*

"The rapid succession of high-spirited adventures makes for lively reading."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"Filled with just plausible historical figures and incidents."

—*The News York Times Book Review*

CHAPTER ONE

Synopsis

Fifteen-year-old Jennifer and her thirteen-year-old brother, Jeff, are sitting on the front porch of their Grandmother Briley's house in northwest Missouri. They are complaining about spending the summer there with nothing to do. Their grandmother exits the house and says she has something inside that should suffice to abate their boredom. The three go inside where Grandmother retrieves a journal kept by the children's great-great-great-grandmother, Frances Mary Kelly, who was an Orphan Train child sent from New York City to St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1860. The children complain that the ink in the journal is faded and hard to read, so Grandmother offers to tell them the stories contained inside.

True Or False Reading Check

1. Jennifer and Jeff plan to stay with their grandmother until they are ready for college. **False**
2. Their father is on assignment overseas. **True**

3. Their mother is working on a novel. **True**
4. Grandmother Briley lives in South Dakota. **False**
5. The Orphan Train stories in the journal take place in the 1960's. **False**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. **deliberately** - on purpose
2. **interfere** - to try to prevent the progress of
3. **stammered** - faltered in speech
4. **rhythmic** - having rhythm
5. **sepia-toned** - a photograph in a brown tint

For Discussion

1. Tell about the advantages of living in the city as Jennifer and Jeff do.
2. Tell about the advantages of living in the country as their grandmother does.
3. Do you have an interesting ancestor about whom family stories are told? Tell about him/her.

CHAPTER TWO

Synopsis

Frances Mary Kelly is on an errand for her boss, Mr. Lomax. She is barefoot from poverty and mud-splattered from a passing hansom cab. She is sent to the office of Mr. Waterfield who is to write a reply to a letter. She asks if she may have a discarded newspaper. Mr. Waterfield says that "urchins" like her do not read and instructs her to throw the paper away. She does not comment that her father has taught her to read or that she is teaching her younger brothers and sisters. On her way back to Mr. Lomax's, she stops to admire a doll in a shop window. Another little girl is admiring it as well but is admonished by her mother not to associate with girls like Frances Mary. As she is contemplating her own dirty reflection in the window, a policeman spins her around and instructs her to move on. She then trips on a cane stuck out by a gentleman, and in a fit of rage, she grabs it and throws it to the ground. When she reaches Mr. Lomax's office on Twenty-third Street in New York City, she finds her mother doing the usual chore of polishing the brass on the staircase. The mother tells of leaving Ireland with her husband at twenty-one because of the failure of the potato crop. Frances daydreams about her family having a home. She also recounts the suffering and death of her father from lung disease and her subsequent entrance into adulthood as she comforted her mother and assumed the responsibility of helping to earn the family's living. The two walk home to their immaculately clean room where the other children are waiting. Megan, age twelve, cares for the little ones —

Petey, six, and Peg, seven. Danny is ten and Mike is eleven. Although all the children are supposed to be inside, Frances believes she sees Mike ducking into their building ahead of her.

True Or False Reading Check

1. Frances's mother taught her to read. **False**
2. The Kelly family came to the United States from England. **False**
3. They settled in Washington, D.C. **False**
4. The father died of lung disease. **True**
5. The mother got a job as a scrubwoman. **True**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. **dawdled** - wasted time
2. **ornate** - very decorated
3. **cornices** - moldings at the top of a room
4. **precariously** - lacking in security or stability
5. **pungent** - sharp in smell or taste
6. **urchins** - small, mischievous children
7. **regally** - like royalty
8. **rosettes** - ornaments made to resemble a roses
9. **balusters** - supports of a handrail
10. **balustrade** - a handrail and the row of posts that support it
11. **curlicues** - fancy twists or curls
12. **embroidered** - decorated with stitches of colored thread
13. **scrolled** - with a decoration resembling a partially rolled scroll of paper
14. **davenport** - a large sofa
15. **pulverized** - crushed or ground
16. **burnished** - polished
17. **subsided** - eased
18. **greengrocers** - sellers of fresh fruits and vegetables
19. **haberdasheries** - men's clothes shops
20. **relegated** - assigned

For Discussion

1. Describe how Frances is treated by those who think they are her betters.
2. Frances daydreams about a better life for her family. If you could daydream a perfect situation for yourself, what would it be?
3. Do you think Frances's situation could be repeated in modern times? How do you think those in poverty survive today?

For Investigation

1. See what information you can find on the headline "*Lady Elgin Sunk*" which Frances saw in Mr. Waterfield's office.
2. Get a map of New York City and point out the streets mentioned in Chapter Two: Fifth Avenue, the intersection of Fifth and Broadway, Twenty-third Street, Ninth Avenue, Sixteenth Street.
3. On a map of Europe, locate the Bens mountains.

CHAPTER THREE

Synopsis

The next morning Frances and her mother sew some piecework for a tailor. Then Frances goes to a room nearby to check on her best friend Mara, who is very ill. Mara lives with her aunt and uncle who speak little English and are suspect of doctors and hospitals. Frances fears that Mara is dying, so she runs to her mother, who convinces the Robis (Mara's aunt and uncle) to get help. A doctor and a minister, Charles Loring Brace, take Mara to a home for orphaned

children where she can be tended. Frances's mother explains that Charles Loring Brace has founded the Children's Aid Society which places orphans in good homes out West. Frances is appalled that Mara must leave her friends and family. The Kellys have lunch during which Mike and Danny empty their pockets of the coins they have earned shining shoes. Mike inadvertently displays an expensive pocketknife which he insists he found, but Frances suspects him of thievery. She recalls how her father, whom she calls Da, had taught the children that stealing is wrong. Frances's mother instructs her to take the finished shirts to the tailor, but Frances follows Mike instead. She watches as Mike deliberately collides with a gentleman and in the process steals his money. Frances confronts Mike, who insists that he has no choice but to steal in order to keep the family going. A policeman grabs Mike and takes him to jail. Frances runs frantically to tell her mother what has happened.

True Or False Reading Check

1. Every child in the Kelly family has chores to do. **True**
2. Frances's friend Mara is very ill. **True**
3. Mike finds a very expensive pocketknife. **False**
4. Da has taught his children that stealing is wrong. **True**
5. Mike and Frances are taken to jail. **False**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. **infectious** - spreading easily from one person to another
2. **tousled** - messed up
3. **gruel** - a watery oatmeal
4. **collided** - ran together
5. **pallet** - a mat used for a bed
6. **thievery** - stealing
7. **instinctively** - reacting without thinking
8. **idolized** - worshiped
9. **sauntered** - strolled
10. **portly** - fat
11. **muffler** - a scarf
12. **tottered** - walked as if about to fall
13. **indignation** - anger at something unjust
14. **bravado** - false bravery
15. **tentatively** - uncertainly

For Discussion

1. Do you think it was cruel of Frances's mother to persuade the Robis to let Mara be taken away? Why or why not?
2. Describe Mike's method of stealing.
3. Do you think Mike was justified in stealing to support his family? Why or why not?

For Investigation

See what information you can find about Charles Loring Brace and the Children's Aid Society in the library. Report your findings to the class.

CHAPTER FOUR

Synopsis

Frances tells her mother of Mike's being a "copper stealer" and his consequent arrest. Mrs. Kelly sends Frances to work at Mr. Lomax's while she goes to the police station. Mrs. Kelly meets Frances later at work and tells her that Mike will spend the night in jail until he goes before the judge at 9 A.M. the next morning. When Frances asks to go to court, Mrs. Kelly says that all the children will be there.

The next morning, Mrs. Kelly, brown parcel in hand, and all the children go to court. Charles Loring Brace is there, and Mrs. Kelly introduces all the children. Frances thinks her mother in going to send Mike out West rather than risk his being sent to Tombs Prison. However, when Mrs. Kelly speaks to the judge, she reveals that she wishes to send all of her children West. Frances is in shocked disbelief and accuses her mother of not loving them. Her mother replies that it is because she loves them so much that she is able to send them away to better homes where they will be fed, clothed, and educated. She instructs Frances always to look after the youngest child, Petey. Angrily, Frances says she will try to replace their mother who doesn't want them. After saying goodbye, Mrs. Kelly leaves her children at the court.

True Or False Reading Check

1. Mrs. Kelly takes all the children to the court. **True**
2. The judge orders Mike to spend five years in Tombs Prison. **True**
3. Charles Loring Brace convinces the judge to lower the sentence to three years. **False**
4. Mrs. Kelly sends all the children except Frances and Mike out West. **False**
5. Petey, the youngest, dies in Frances's arms. **False**

Vocabulary To Define

1. parcel - package
2. accusation - the saying that someone did something wrong
3. assault - attack
4. conferred - talked to one another
5. ragamuffins - dirty children
6. convictions - beliefs
7. sidle - walk sideways
8. hoisted - lifted
9. residing - living
10. enfold - put arms around

For Discussion

1. Do you believe it took more love for Mrs. Kelly to give up her children or to keep them? Why?
2. Do you think Frances was justified in feeling angry at her mother?
3. What do you think was the judge's attitude toward children like the Kellys? **most unsympathetic**
4. What do you think is Charles Loring Brace's attitude toward children like the Kellys? **respectful**

CHAPTER FIVE

Synopsis

The children are sitting on a bench in the Children's Aid Society building on Amity Street. Mr. Brace comforts the children but tells them he will not be making the trip West with them. Frances asks if he knows anything about Mara, and he leaves to get information. Frances overhears a man in the office next door accept donations of clothes for the children. The donor, Mrs. Marsh, asks how many children will be making the trip, and the man replies that he is uncertain of the number, but he believes there will be more boys than girls. He says that this is good because often times a Western family will accept more than one boy from the same family because of boys' abilities to do chores. Frances then realizes that the children will be separated. She borrows Mike's knife, sneaks a set of boy's clothes

from the shelf of donations, and goes outside the building to transform herself into a boy so she can keep her promise to her mother that Petey and she will remain together. She instructs her brothers and sisters to call her Frankie from now on. Mrs. Minton, an Aid Society helper, calls Megan "Frances" and says that Mara is recovering well in the hospital. She then expresses confusion that her notes say there should be another girl. Frances replies that although her name is Frances, she is indeed a boy and called Frankie. She further explains that her middle name is Martin, not Mary. Mrs. Minton believes Frances and changes the records she is holding. She then suggests that all the children bathe, put on clean clothes, and that the boys get neater haircuts. Frances must go to the boys' bathing room with her brothers. Luckily, all the other children are gone, so she instructs her brothers to turn their backs while she washes. Mike kids her throughout her deception, but she pays him no attention. Mrs. Minton cuts the boys' hair and then returns them to their sisters. The girls look beautiful in their dresses and ribbons. Frances wonders how she would have looked. Mrs. Minton escorts the Kelly children into a large room where there are twenty-eight children of all ages. A woman, Katherine Brooks, introduces herself to all the children and explains that she and Andrew McNair, Mr. Brace's scout, will accompany them on their trip to St. Joseph, Missouri. The older children ask questions, and Katherine tries to reassure them that they will not have to stay in homes they do not like and that efforts will be made to keep children of one family reasonably close together (if at all possible) so that they might visit each other. Mr. McNair reminds Frances of her father.

True Or False Reading Check

1. Most families out West want girls to help with the cooking. **False**
2. Frances disguises herself as a boy. **True**
3. Peg blames Mike for getting the children sent from their mother. **True**
4. At the Aid Society building, the children are beaten and starved. **False**
5. Andrew McNair reminds Frances of her father. **True**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. winced - flinched with disgust
2. smattering - a sparse and scattered group
3. reeking - stinking
4. recede - to move back
5. meager - having little

For Discussion

1. Describe the personality of Megan. She thinks she is plain and to blame for what goes on around her.
2. Is Peg justified in blaming Mike for their being sent to Missouri? Why or why not?
3. Do you think the Children's Aid Society will be able to find truly good families for all the children? Why or why not?

CHAPTER SIX

Synopsis

All the children board the train West. Mr. and Mrs. Crandon, fellow passengers, make remarks about the orphans being criminals who should stay in New York. Katherine comforts the children by saying that they are truly fine and will eventually change the minds of the Crandons, prominent St. Joseph citizens who happen to be making

the trip home on the same train as the orphans. The children are amazed by the sights of the countryside. They have never seen farm animals such as pigs and cows. Katherine tells the children that she owns the general store in St. Joseph. Later in the evening, the older children listen to tales told by a young army officer named Joshua Taylor. At the first stop in Buffalo, N.Y., Frances sees a chained slave being taken from the train. Captain Taylor explains the Fugitive Slave Act to Frances, who is appalled by the sight of the brutalized slave. Frances then turns her attentions to comforting Megan, who is afraid all the children will be parted. Frances says that perhaps someone will want all of them, and they will all move into a white house with blue shutters. Megan tells her to stop daydreaming.

True Or False Reading Check

1. All of the passengers on the train are friendly to the children. **False**
2. The children have never seen the sights of the country. **True**
3. Katherine's husband is a businessman in St. Joseph. **False**
4. Captain Taylor pulls a gun on Mike. **False**
5. A slave murders a passenger. **False**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. **conical** - shaped like a cone
2. **cringed** - shuddered with disgust
3. **jounces** - moves with bumps and jolts
4. **entranced** - filled with wonder
5. **russet** - reddish brown

For Discussion

1. What is Mr. Crandon's attitude toward the orphans?
2. What are some of the sights the children see from the train?
3. What is Frances's daydream?

For Investigation

Find information on the Fugitive Slave Act and report your findings to the class.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Synopsis

Frances awakes to Petey's crying for their mother. She confesses to Megan that she has no idea what will happen to them in Missouri. The small children on the train begin to cry with hunger and boredom. Mr. Crandon complains again about the "urchins." Mike stands in the aisle and entertains the small ones with music, humming, and antics. The train screeches to a halt because its sparks have started a brushfire. All men and older boys, including Frances in her disguise, are told to help put it out. Mr. Crandon's shirt catches on fire, so Mike wrestles him to the ground in order to smother it. Mr. Crandon is very angry at Mike, but Andrew MacNair defends Mike. Again, Andrew McNair reminds Frances of her father. Danny is worried that he and Mike will be separated in Missouri.

The children change trains in Chicago. This train takes them to the Mississippi River where they cross to Hannibal, Missouri, by steamboat. Mike says he eventually wants to work on a steamboat like this one. In Hannibal, the children board a third train to St. Joseph. Mike tells Frances that he blames himself for the children being sent to Missouri. Frances says that she does not blame him. The train is then attacked by outlaws, one of whom holds a sack for

all the passengers to put their money and valuables in. Katherine does not want to give up her wedding ring, but he insists. Mike plows into the man who hits him hard and sends him sprawling. Frances rushes to Mike's side. The outlaws leave, but Captain Taylor pulls a gun from his satchel and wounds one in the shoulder. Mike gives Katherine back her ring and Andrew a wad of bills he managed to steal from the outlaw. Mr. Crandon complains that Mike didn't get his money clip. Katherine thanks Mike and points out to Mr. Crandon that Mike saved his life. Mr. Crandon says that Mike is a common pickpocket and should not be allowed into a proper home. A woman on board agrees and suggests that Mike be sent back to New York. Another woman says that all must be sympathetic with the children because they have had no parents to guide them. Frances says that they have a mother who wants better things for her children than she can give them.

True Or False Reading Check

1. Frances helps to put out a fire. **True**
2. Mike blames himself for the children's being sent to Missouri. **True**
3. The outlaws kill Captain Taylor. **False**
4. Mike picks the pockets of one of the outlaws. **True**
5. Mr. Crandon admits that Mike is a good person. **False**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. **bolster** - boost
2. **parroted** - repeated another's words
3. **lurched** - bolted forward
4. **din** - noise
5. **scorched** - burned
6. **charred** - scorched
7. **trestles** - certain types of bridges
8. **flounces** - pleats
9. **parasols** - fancy umbrellas for women
10. **yearning** - wanting deeply
11. **satchel** - a briefcase or bag for carrying important papers, etc.
12. **clout** - hit
13. **retrieving** - bringing back
14. **debatable** - arguable
15. **subdued** - kept peaceful

For Discussion

1. Describe how Mike entertains the children on board the train.
2. Describe how Mike saves Mr. Crandon's life.
3. Describe how Mike retrieves Katherine's ring and some of the passengers' money.
4. Give three passengers' opinions as to whether or not Mike should be placed in a good home.
5. Do you think Mike would be a good choice for some Western family to adopt? Why or why not?
6. Why do you think Mr. Crandon is so critical of the children and of Mike? Do you think Mike could ever change Mr. Crandon's mind?
7. Do you think Mike will be adopted in St. Joseph? Why or why not?

For Investigation

1. On a map of the United States, trace the route that the orphans have followed.
2. See if you can find copies of the songs "The Irish Washerwoman,"

"Old Dog Tray," and "Oh! Susanna." Share with the class the words to these songs that Mike used to entertain the children. If you can sing or play an instrument, perform the songs for the class.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Synopsis

As they near St. Joseph, Katherine is busy tidying the girls. Frances and all the others are looking out the train windows. They see many buggies and wagons as people come to St. Joseph to see and adopt the children. Although she is afraid, Frances is excited as she notes the differences in the dress and the town of St. Joseph as compared to New York City. When the train stops, many of the other passengers wish the children well. Captain Taylor calls Mike "a fine young man" and instructs him to remember that Taylor will be at Fort Leavenworth. The children are told to form a line at the station in order to walk to the church. People crowd around the platform at the station in order to see the children, and the mayor, Mr. Merriweather Jeff Thompson, gives a speech of welcome to the children and thanks to the Children's Aid Society. During the speech, Bill Cody parts the crowd so that he may carry out the duties of the pony express. Mike thinks he would like to be a pony express rider when he learns to ride. Andrew and Katherine lead the children to the church where they take seats on a raised platform as the townspeople crowd around to see them. Frances holds Petey on her lap. All the children are terrified at the sight of so many people, all looking at them.

True Or False Reading Check

1. When the children get to St. Joseph, there are only a few people to meet them. **False**
2. Captain Taylor takes Mike with him to Fort Leavenworth. **False**
3. Captain Taylor calls Mike "a fine young man." **True**
4. The president is there to meet the children. **False**
5. Bill Cody is seen riding for the pony express. **True**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. **extracting** - taking out
2. **parallel** - being an equal distance apart at every point
3. **porters** - employees on trains who carry passengers' luggage
4. **aloft** - up high
5. **pulpit** - a stand used in preaching

For Discussion

1. Why did Frances say the looks of the townspeople reminded her of the looks people give cabbages at the market?
2. How would you have felt had you been one of the children sitting on the church platform?

For Investigation

Find information on the pony express and Bill Cody. Share your findings with the class.

CHAPTER NINE

Synopsis

Andrew McNair steps to the front of the platform and begins the introductions. Each child is named, including Frances as "Frankie." Andrew then steps down to talk in private with the townspeople who are choosing children for adoption. Frances watches Mr. Crandon

move from group to group and whisper. Danny and Peg are chosen by a nice couple, the Swensons. Danny wants the Swensons to adopt Mike as well, but they apologize sincerely and state they they can only afford two children. Another nice couple, Emma and Benjamin Browder, choose Megan. They live in the Kansas Territory, so Megan will be able to see her siblings only once a year when the Browsers come to St. Joseph for supplies. The pleasant Jake and Margaret Cummings choose both "Frankie" and Petey. Mike is the only child left on the platform, and should he be sent back, he will go to Tombs Prison as the judge has ordered. A fat and scowling family, the Friedrichs, push their way through the crowd. They want Mike to work on their farm. Frances is dismayed by their looks and their attitudes, but Mike agrees to go with them. Andrew reminds the Friedrichs that Mike is to be treated as a family member, not as a hired hand. Katherine gives Frances a sheet of paper with the new addresses of her siblings. All the Kelly children come together to say goodbye.

True Or False Reading Check

1. Danny and Mike are not adopted by the same family. **True**
2. Megan is adopted by a couple who think she is beautiful. **True**
3. Frances and Petey are separated despite their mother's request. **False**
4. Mike is adopted by a family that will probably be very good to him. **False**
5. All the children will be living close to the city of St. Joseph. **False**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. **jaunty** - jolly
2. **valiant** - brave
3. **hesitantly** - haltingly
4. **commotion** - noisy activity
5. **rotund** - round and fat
6. **bribery** - payment to get one to do another's will
7. **pudgy** - short and fat
8. **suspiciously** - expecting evil
9. **retorted** - replied
10. **tentative** - temporary

For Discussion

1. What do you think Mr. Crandon was whispering to the townspeople? **He was probably telling them that Mike is a thief.**
2. Do you think Mrs. Kelly would be pleased with the placement of all her children? **all except Mike**
3. Did Frances keep her promise to her mother? **Yes. She stayed with Petey.**
4. Why was Megan so surprised at being chosen? **She sees herself as plain.**

CHAPTER TEN

Synopsis

Frances is awakened by Margaret as they approach the Cummings' farm. Jake states that until six years ago, he was a teacher at a university in Massachusetts, and Margaret was a primary teacher. They came to Kansas as homesteaders so they could have a voice in making Kansas a free state. The balance of power between free and slave states put forth in the Missouri Compromise would be shifted with the addition of new free states. Margaret mentions sacrifice as

it pertains to their giving up comfortable lives for their principles. Frances has heard the word *sacrifice* many times, but has never understood its meaning. The Cummingses' farm is beautiful, complete with a two-story white farmhouse and a dog named Barker. The Cummingses and their friends have prepared a welcome party for Frances and Petey. Two boys about Frances's age, Elton and Johnny, are scrutinizing her, so she rounds the corner of the house to be alone. She spies a homemade doll in the grass and is admiring it when the boys see her and kid her about playing with dolls. Frances butts Elton in the stomach and uses her foot to trip him so he lands on his back in the dirt. She has then earned the respect of both boys. The tables are set, and Frances has never seen so much food, nor has she ever seen the varieties of food served. She feels guilty that her brothers and sisters, and certainly her mother, may not be eating as well as she. Frances slips into the parlor where the men are eating and talking about Lincoln, abolitionists, and the Underground Railroad. Frances is curious as to what it all means. She then wanders to the lovely kitchen where the women are dividing the rest of the food and packing it into baskets. Frances starts to help with the dishes, and one lady comments that it is odd to see a boy help out in the kitchen. Frances thinks she has made a mistake which might uncover her disguise, so she goes outside and picks a fight with Elton simply to assert her "manhood." All the guests leave except for the Muellers and their sons, one of whom is Johnny. The older boys, including Frankie, sleep among quilts on the kitchen floor. Petey and the younger children are tucked into bed. Frankie amazes Johnny and his younger brother Fred with tales about the Orphan Train. Frances then cries into her pillow as she thinks of her brother and sisters and mother. Johnny comforts her and says it's all right to cry sometimes. The two are glad to be friends.

True Or False Reading Check

1. The Cummingses have been farmers for many years. **False**
2. They have a lovely farm with a white house and a dog. **True**
3. They have planned a welcome party for Frances and Petey. **True**
4. Frances knocks down one of the boys. **True**
5. Petey hates his new home. **False**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. **distressed** - upset
2. **lilt** - songlike quality
3. **dubious** - doubtful
4. **propelled** - moved
5. **tantalizing** - tempting
6. **intent** - studying only one aspect
7. **orator** - speaker
8. **abolitionists** - people who wanted to do away with slavery
9. **devoured** - ate
10. **penalties** - punishments
11. **parceled** - divided
12. **utensils** - forks, knives, and spoons
13. **pummeled** - hit again and again
14. **tarried** - stayed behind
15. **suppressing** - holding back

For Discussion

1. What are some of the differences between the Cummingses' home and Frances and Petey's home in New York City?

2. Why is Frances so amazed by the homemade doll?
3. How does Frances prove herself to Elton and Johnny?
4. What do the men talk about in the parlor?
5. Why does Frances cry before she goes to sleep?

For Investigation

1. What can you find out about the jayhawkers?
2. Explain the Missouri Compromise to the class. Tell which states were slave and which ones were free.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Synopsis

The next morning, Frances helps with the chores and has a hearty breakfast. Marshal Dawson and two riders, bounty hunters, come to the farm in search of runaway slaves. Marshal Dawson says the slaves are a large man and small woman who is wearing a black shawl with blue embroidered flowers in one corner. The Cummingses deny having seen them, but one of the riders says that New England settlers should not be trusted. The marshal and his riders leave. The Muellers, Johnny's family, say their goodbyes and leave as well. Frances and Petey are given simple chores to do on the farm. Petey learns to feed the chickens and gather eggs while Frances learns to milk a cow. Frances tries to quit thinking about her mother and siblings, but she still doesn't believe her mother has done the right thing by sending the children away. Yet Frances enjoys having a full stomach all the time. After lunch, Margaret tells Frances it is time for the children to have lessons and is surprised to learn that Frances already reads quite well. After the evening chores and supper, Frances asks Jake to tell her about the Underground Railroad. She asks if their house is part of the chain of homes. Jake replies that there are some things that she should not know. Frances says she wants to help because she, too, knows what it is like to be treated as if she has no feelings. Margaret shows Frances to her and Petey's neat and comfortable room. After her bath, Frances goes immediately to sleep but is awakened in the night by the low murmur of voices and the whinny of a horse.

True Or False Reading Check

1. Marshal Dawson arrests the Cummingses for hiding slaves. **False**
2. The slaves that are missing are three large men. **False**
3. Petey learns how to milk a cow. **False**
4. Margaret gives the children their school lessons. **True**
5. Frances is embarrassed that she doesn't know how to read. **False**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. **passel** - a lot
2. **reluctantly** - with reservation
3. **contemptuously** - with scorn
4. **bawling** - cows' crying
5. **wary** - cautiously
6. **rebuked** - criticized
7. **protested** - disagreed using words or actions
8. **chagrined** - embarrassed
9. **multicolored** - with many colors
10. **bolting** - darted

For Discussion

1. Why do you think the bounty hunters do not trust the

Cummingses?

2. Describe Frances's first day on the farm. What is expected of her?
3. Do you think the Cummingses are kind to Petey and Frances?
4. How does Frances feel about her mother having sent the children West?
5. What do you think are the sounds Frances hears in the night?

For Investigation

See what you can find out about the Underground Railroad. Can you find the names of any of the people who were involved? Ask your librarian for help. Share your findings with the class.

CHAPTER TWELVE

Synopsis

Margaret tells Frances that she had two boys who died of diphtheria. Frances goes to the barn in the bitter cold to help Jake with the milking and the horses. That night, Petey and Margaret become ill with a fever. At dinner, Margaret tells Jake that she has fixed "more than enough," and she nods toward the barn. Frances knows that someone is hiding in the barn. Margaret must go to bed, so Frances goes back to the barn to explore. She discovers a concealed room behind one of the cow's stalls. As she looks through a knothole, she is surprised to see an eye looking back at her. A slave, Janus, and his wife, Odette, emerge from the room. Frances tells them not to be afraid because she wants to help. Odette tells of her five-year-old son's being given away to the master's daughter. Janus was to be sold, so he and Odette are trying to get to Canada. Frances is horrified by their story. Jake comes to the barn with food for Janus and Odette. For the next several days, Frances cares for Petey and Margaret and makes frequent trips to the barn to see Janus and Odette. Jake tells Frances that she must keep their secret. When Petey and Margaret get well, Jake gets the fever on the day that he is to take Janus and Odette to the next stop on the Underground Railroad, the Muellers. Frances wants to take the wagon concealing the slaves to the Muellers because the bitter cold could kill the sick Jake. Reluctantly, Jake consents, and Frances drives the wagon in which Janus and Odette are concealed. When she is well on her way, she hears the approaching horses of the Marshal and the bounty hunters.

True Or False Reading Check

1. Margaret and Jake had two children of their own who died. **True**
2. Petey and Margaret become ill with a fever. **True**
3. There are three slaves hiding in the Cummingses' barn. **False**
4. Petey starts to call Margaret *mama*. **True**
5. Frances is not able to drive the wagon which hides the slaves. **False**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. **intruded** - broke in rudely
2. **assured** - made certain
3. **horrified** - very scared
4. **abruptly** - suddenly
5. **reveal** - make known
6. **invalids** - persons incapable of taking care of themselves
7. **camphor** - a smelly substance from the camphor tree
8. **fodder** - food for animals
9. **spasm** - involuntary jerking

10. **trench** - ditch

For Discussion

1. What in Frances's background makes her able to understand exactly how the slaves feel?
2. Why do you think she is so upset that Petey calls Margaret *mama*?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Synopsis

The Marshal and the bounty hunters ride on after questioning Frances. When she arrives at the Mueller farm, Johnny is awed by her being trusted with such an important mission, and he says it takes a brave person to break the law. Frances is confused by the fact that although she is doing the right thing, she is breaking the law. Mrs. Mueller says that people must be willing to make sacrifices for their beliefs. Again, Frances hears the word *sacrifice*, and she begins to understand how her mother had to sacrifice the joy of being with her children in order to give them a better life. Having delivered Janus and Odette to the next stop on the Underground Railroad, Frances prepares for her return journey the next morning. Mrs. Mueller sends a pot of cheese to Margaret, and in Frances's haste, she wraps the cheese in the black shawl she spies lying on the ground. On her way back to the Cummingses, she is stopped again by the Marshal and the two bounty hunters. This time they find Odette's shawl wrapped around the pot of cheese. The Marshal arrests Frances and takes her to Jake and Margaret who are protesting that Frankie found the shawl and is innocent. Katherine Banks and Andrew McNair arrive at the farm in the midst of the argument. Katherine says that Frances is a girl and could not possibly have concealed slaves by herself. Katherine shows a letter written by Frances's mother to give more adequate descriptions of her children, their needs, likes and dislikes. Katherine also says that the shawl belongs to her and that she will try to find a bill of sale for it. With no evidence of a crime and no desire to arrest a girl, Marshal Dawson leaves. Margaret and Jake are happy that Frances is a girl, and Jake agrees to let her help with the same chores on the farm. Katherine says she has suspected that Frances is a girl because of the looks she has given Andrew. Margaret says that Andrew is too old for Frances, but not for Katherine.

The book ends with Grandma Briley's closing the journal of Frances Mary Kelly. Jennifer and Jeff want to hear what happened to Mike, but Grandma says his story must wait until tomorrow.

True Or False Reading Check

1. Frances's wagon overturns on the way to the Muellers' farm. **False**
2. The bounty hunters find Janus and Odette and return them to their masters. **False**
3. The embroidered shawl gets Frances arrested. **True**
4. Jake and Margaret are angry to find out that Frances is a girl. **False**
5. Frances and Andrew are engaged to be married. **False**

Vocabulary Words To Define

1. **cringing** - shrinking back in fear
2. **ailing** - sick
3. **confided** - told a secret to
4. **muddle** - a confusion

5. serene - calm
6. slivers - small sharp pieces
7. isolated - alone
8. ruffians - crude, mean people
9. torrent - a flood
10. tormenting - aggravating, torturing

For Discussion

1. Does Frances at last understand the meaning of the word *sacrifice*? What has her mother sacrificed? What have the Cummingses and the Muellers sacrificed?
2. Do you think it is ever all right to break the law? How should a person decide whether or not to obey the law?
3. Katherine lies about the shawl. Is it ever all right to tell a lie? How does a person know when it is all right to lie?
4. Would you like to read the other books in the Orphan Train Quartet? Why or why not?

OTHER BOOKS IN THE ORPHAN TRAIN QUARTET

Caught in the Act
In the Face of Danger
A Place to Belong

OTHER BOOKS BY JOAN LOWERY NIXON

Beats Me, Claude
Candidate for Murder
Dark and Deadly Pool
Deadly Game of Magic
Deadly Promise
Encore
Fat Chance, Claude
Ghosts of Now
Gift
Haunted House on Honeycutt Street
Haunted Island
High Trail to Danger
Honeycutt Street Celebrities
Island of Dangerous Dreams
Kidnapping of Christina Lattimore
Land of Hope
Land of Promise
Mystery Box
Name of the Game Was Murder
Other Side of Dark
Overnight Sensation
The Seance
Secret, Silent Screams
Specter
Stalker
Star Baby
That's The Spirit, Claude
Watch Out For Dinosaurs!
Weekend for Murder!
Whispers From the Dead
You Bet Your Britches, Claude

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Something About the Author. Vol. 44. Detroit: Gale, 1986.

VOCABULARY TEST ONE

Write the words that best fit into the blanks. Use the context and chapter number clues to help you decide.

infectious	ragamuffins	embroidered	multicolored	sepia-toned	commotion
pungent	relegated	yearning	ailing	parceled	smattering
residing	interfere	valiant	devoured	slivers	extracting
jounces	regally	russet	retrieving	lilt	fodder
dawdled	gruel	porters	assured	indignation	scorched
thievery	orator	reveal			

- Chapter 1 Jennifer was not quick enough to _____ with Jeff's pebble throwing.
Grandma Briley showed the children a _____ photograph.
- Chapter 2 Frances _____, which made her late for work.
The cheese had a _____ smell.
Frances thought her mother would look like a queen with her coat _____ swinging around her legs.
Their house in Ireland had _____ pillows.
The peddlers' carts were _____ to their storage places.
- Chapter 3 Mike's grin spread to others as if it were _____.
The children ate _____ for breakfast.
All the children had been taught that _____ is wrong.
Mike slammed into a fat man who started to shake with _____.
- Chapter 4 The judge called the children _____.
The judge told Mike if he returned to New York, he would find himself _____ in Tombs prison.
- Chapter 5 Katherine had a _____ of freckles on her nose.
- Chapter 6 The train moved with jerks and _____.
The _____ - colored marigolds were beautiful.
- Chapter 7 Sparks from the fire _____ Mike's shirt.
Mike was _____ to work on a steamboat.
- Chapter 8 Katherine began _____ fresh hairbows from her purse.
_____ carried the passengers' luggage.
- Chapter 9 Danny made a _____ effort not to show his feelings.
The Friedrich family caused a _____ as they entered the church.
- Chapter 10 Margaret's voice had a happy _____ to it.
Lincoln's well-planned speeches made him a fine _____.
Frances was so hungry she _____ every crumb.
The women _____ out the leftovers.
- Chapter 11 Both beds were covered with bright, _____ quilts.
- Chapter 12 Frances _____ Janus and Odette that she would not hurt them.
Jake told Janus that Frances could be trusted not to _____ anything.
Frances hid the slaves among sacks of corn _____.
- Chapter 13 Jake was _____ with a fever.
Frances's skin prickled as the _____ of cold struck her face.

VOCABULARY TEST TWO

Write the words that best fit into the blanks. Use the context and chapter number clues to help you decide.

pulverized	humiliation	abolitionists	parallel	entranced	deliberately
enfold	tentatively	trestles	parcel	stammered	idolized
satchel	precariously	subdued	utensils	invalids	din
confided	pulpit	wary	recede	rotund	propelled
trench	penalties	assault	tousled	davenport	urchins
collided	suspiciously	horrified			

- Chapter 1 Jennifer _____ nudged Jeff's shoulder; it was no accident.
Jennifer _____ when she insulted her grandmother.
- Chapter 2 The inkstand balanced _____ on Mr. Waterfield's desk.
Mr. Waterfield called children like Frances _____.
Frances felt _____ because the other little girl's mother pulled the child away.
In the Kelly house in Ireland, there was a table near the _____.
Mrs. Kelly fed Da _____ beef bones.
- Chapter 3 Mike's _____ red hair was a mess.
Danny ran without looking and almost _____ with Frances.
Danny _____ Mike and wanted to be just like him.
Frances reached out to Mike _____ because she was uncertain how to help him.
- Chapter 4 Frances's mother was carrying a _____ which contained the children's clothes.
Mike was charged with _____ as well as stealing.
Mrs. Kelly bent down to _____ all her children in a hug.
- Chapter 5 The children watched the New York skyline _____ into the distance.
- Chapter 6 The children were _____ by the sights of the countryside.
- Chapter 7 Andrew had to raise his voice over the _____ made by the children.
The train crossed _____ and bridges.
Captain Taylor kept his gun in his _____.
The children became quiet and _____ as night fell.
- Chapter 8 A road ran _____ to the tracks.
The church had a raised platform, a piano, and a _____.
- Chapter 9 The Friedrich family were _____ and scowling.
Mike glanced _____ at the Friedrichs.
- Chapter 10 A short woman _____ Frances to the table.
_____ wanted an end to slavery.
There were severe _____ for helping slaves escape.
Frances washed the _____ in soapy water.
- Chapter 11 Frances was _____ of the cow at first.
- Chapter 12 Frances was _____ that Janus and Odette's son was taken away from them.
Frances cared for Petey and Margaret when they became _____.
The slaves hid in a _____ among the sacks.
- Chapter 13 Frances _____ in Johnny that she was scared.

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I. Matching (50 points)

Match the phrase to the appropriate character.

Katherine Banks
Peg
Mr. Lomax
The Cummingses
Captain Taylor
Barker
Odette

Danny
Mr. Kelly
Frances
Petey
Mr. Crandon
Johnny

Mrs. Kelly
Megan
Mara Robi
Bill Cody
The Browders
Janus

Andrew McNair
Mike
Charles Loring Brace
The Swensons
The Muellers
Grandma Briley

- _____ 1. The male slave
- _____ 2. Lost her wedding ring to the outlaws
- _____ 3. Pretended to be a boy
- _____ 4. Kept his gun in a satchel on the train
- _____ 5. Founded the Children's Aid Society
- _____ 6. Rode for the Pony Express
- _____ 7. Johnny's family
- _____ 8. Adopted Frances and Petey
- _____ 9. The youngest Kelly child
- _____ 10. Sent her children out West to find better homes
- _____ 11. The Cummingses' dog
- _____ 12. Thought she was plain
- _____ 13. Reminded Frances of her father
- _____ 14. Idolized Mike
- _____ 15. Was adopted by the same family as Danny was
- _____ 16. Entertained the children on the train
- _____ 17. Was fed pulverized beef bones
- _____ 18. Adopted Peg and Danny
- _____ 19. Adopted Megan
- _____ 20. Was the boss of Mrs. Kelly and Frances
- _____ 21. Frances's best friend besides Megan
- _____ 22. Hated the children, especially Mike
- _____ 23. Told Frankie "he" was very brave to break the law
- _____ 24. Told Jennifer and Jeff the stories in the journal
- _____ 25. Wore an embroidered shawl

Part II. Fill In (20 points)

Write the correct answer in the space provided.

1. Frances's family left the country of _____ and moved to the United States.
2. Once in the U.S., the Kellys settled in the city of _____.
3. The Kelly children were sent out West on what was called the _____.
4. Thieves were sent to a place called _____.
5. The Kelly children were sent to the town of _____.
6. Congress passed the _____ which stated that runaway slaves must be returned to their owners.
7. People who wanted to abolish slavery were called _____.
8. The Cummingses and the Muellers were part of a chain called the _____.
9. The _____ set forth the balance of power between the Free and the Slave States.
10. _____ was running for president during Frances's stay with the Cummingses.

Part III. Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Describe Frances's life with her mother in New York.
2. What does the word *sacrifice* come to mean to Frances? What had her mother sacrificed? What had the Cummingses sacrificed?
3. Tell what makes the embroidered shawl so important to the story.
4. What in Frances's background made her so sympathetic to the slaves?
5. How do you think girls were treated in the time of Frances's story? Why did she think she had to become a boy? How does being a girl save the day when she is arrested?

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I. Matching (50 points)

Match the phrase to the appropriate character.

Katherine Banks
Peg
Frances
The Cummingses
Captain Taylor
Barker
Odette

Danny
Mr. Kelly
Mara Robi
Petey
Mr. Crandon
Johnny

Mrs. Kelly
Megan
Mike
Bill Cody
The Browders
Janus

Andrew McNair
Merriweather Jeff Thompson
Charles Loring Brace
The Swensons
The Muellers
Grandma Briley

- _____ 1. Wife of Janus
- _____ 2. Jennifer's grandmother's grandmother's mother
- _____ 3. Was adopted by the same family as Peg
- _____ 4. Called Mike "a fine young man"
- _____ 5. Da
- _____ 6. Maragaret and Jake
- _____ 7. Slept under the kitchen table
- _____ 8. Told people that Mike was a criminal
- _____ 9. Blamed herself for everything
- _____ 10. Mustn't be separated from Frances
- _____ 11. Jennifer's grandmother
- _____ 12. St. Joseph's mayor
- _____ 13. Her aunt and uncle sent her away much as the Kelly children were sent away
- _____ 14. Adopted Megan
- _____ 15. Reminded Frances of her father
- _____ 16. Was adopted by the Friedrichs
- _____ 17. Johnny's family
- _____ 18. Owned the general store in St. Joseph
- _____ 19. Started the Children's Aid Society
- _____ 20. His five-year-old son was given away as a present
- _____ 21. Jennifer's grandmother's grandmother's grandmother
- _____ 22. He and Elton play with Frankie when she first arrives at the Cummingses
- _____ 23. Rides for the Pony Express
- _____ 24. The youngest Kelly sister
- _____ 25. Adopt Frances and Petey

VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEYS

VOCABULARY TEST ONE

Chapter 1	interfere sepia-toned
Chapter 2	dawdled pungent regally embroidered relegated
Chapter 3	infectious gruel thievery indignation
Chapter 4	ragamuffins residing
Chapter 5	smattering
Chapter 6	jounces russet
Chapter 7	scorched yearning
Chapter 8	extracting Porters
Chapter 9	valiant commotion
Chapter 10	lilt orator devoured parceled
Chapter 11	multicolored
Chapter 12	assured reveal fodder
*Chapter 13	ailing slivers

VOCABULARY TEST TWO

Chapter 1	deliberately stammered
Chapter 2	precariously urchins humiliation davenport pulverized
Chapter 3	tousled collided idolized tentatively
Chapter 4	parcel assault enfold
Chapter 5	recede
Chapter 6	entranced
Chapter 7	din trestles satchel subdued
Chapter 8	parallel
Chapter 9	pulpit rotund suspiciously
Chapter 10	propelled Abolitionists penalties utensils
Chapter 11	wary
Chapter 12	horrified invalids trench
Chapter 13	confided

COMPREHENSION TEST ANSWER KEYS

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (50 points)

1. Janus
2. Katherine Banks
3. Frances
4. Captain Taylor
5. Charles Loring Brace
6. Bill Cody
7. The Muellers
8. The Cummingses
9. Petey
10. Mrs. Kelly
11. Barker
12. Megan
13. Andrew McNair
14. Danny
15. Peg
16. Mike
17. Mr. Kelly
18. The Swensons
19. The Browders
20. Mr. Lomax
21. Mara Robi
22. Mr. Crandon
23. Johnny
24. Grandma Briley
25. Odette

Part II: Fill In (20 points)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ireland | 6. Fugitive Slave Act |
| 2. New York | 7. Abolitionists |
| 3. Orphan Train | 8. Underground Railroad |
| 4. Tombs Prison | 9. Missouri Compromise |
| 5. St. Joseph | 10. Abraham Lincoln |

Part III: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (50 points)

1. Odette
2. Frances
3. Danny
4. Captain Taylor
5. Mr. Kelly
6. The Cummingses
7. Barker
8. Mr. Crandon
9. Megan
10. Petey
11. Grandma Briley
12. Merriweather Jeff Thompson
13. Mara Robi
14. The Browders
15. Andrew McNair
16. Mike
17. The Muellers
18. Katherine Banks
19. Charles Loring Brace
20. Janus
21. Mrs. Kelly
22. Johnny
23. Bill Cody
24. Peg
25. The Cummingses

Part II: True or False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T |
| 2. F | 7. T |
| 3. T | 8. T |
| 4. F | 9. F |
| 5. F | 10. F |

Part III: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

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