

DEAR CANADA

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Orphan at My Door **The Home Child Diary of Victoria Cope** By Jean Little

1. Reread pages 27 to 41, the story of Mary Anna's arrival at the train station to her first Sunday service. Imagine that you are Mary Anna and list all the things that were done or said that you would find humiliating. Why did the Copes treat Mary Anna this way?
2. Compare and contrast your Sunday routine with the Cope family's.
3. Why would the Barnardo people separate Mary Anna from her brother and sister? Do you think this was fair?
4. As Victoria gets to know Marianna she starts to feel embarrassed and angry about her own life and her privileges. Why would she feel this way?
5. Marianna tells Victoria the story of her parents and then says, "when no one knows, you feel as though part of you doesn't exist." Do you think that's true?
6. Why didn't her parents tell Victoria that her mother is pregnant? Why do you think adults at this time told children so little about the "facts of life"?