

DEAR CANADA

DISCUSSION GUIDE

With Nothing But Our Courage **The Loyalist Diary of Mary MacDonald** By Karleen Bradford

1. List the items that the MacDonald family took with them when they fled their home. Why do you think the diary is called *With Nothing But Our Courage*, if they took all of these household items? What would you take if you were forced to leave your house in 24 hours?
2. Why is the lilac bush so important to Grannie? What does it symbolize?
3. Compare and contrast the attitudes of Mrs. MacDonald and Mrs. Ross on the journey. Why do you think they face their trials so differently?
4. Why is it significant that Mrs. MacDonald donates baby Margaret's blanket to the Livingstones for a new quilt?
5. What difficulties did the refugees face in running a school at Machiche? Why would the MacDonalds and Rosses be unusual in allowing their daughters to attend school?
6. Mary describes the process by which the Loyalists were given land. Do you think this was a fair way to distribute land?