

DEAR CANADA

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Footsteps in the Snow

The Red River Diary of Isobel Scott

By Carol Matas

1. How would you describe Isobel's attitude toward the aboriginal girl she trades with? Describe that episode from the point of view of the aboriginal girl. Imagine how the aboriginal girl might describe the same episode.
2. Isobel seems determined to take her mother's place in the family. List all the things she does that her mother would have done for the family.
3. Kate rescues Robbie when she has a feeling that something is wrong. Why is this called having a "sixth sense"? Do you think it's possible to have such a gift?
4. Describe Isobel's attitude toward White Loon. Why do you think she feels this way?
5. Isobel comments on the naming traditions of the Cree and wonders what name she might make up for herself. What name do you think she should have? What name would you give yourself?