

## NurtureStore Tween Book Club

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech



1. Let's start at the end, because the book has such a powerful conclusion. Did you like the way the book ended? Did you work out how all the stories were going to work out? (*What did you think had happened to Sal's mother? Who did you think was leaving the notes on Phoebe's porch? What did you think had happened to Phoebe's mother?*) Did anything surprise you?

2. How did you feel when you finished the book? What other emotions did you have as you were reading through the chapters? (*Did any part of the book make you laugh? Make you annoyed? Make you puzzled? Make you sad?*)

3. Why do you think Sharon Creech didn't let us know what had happened to Sal's mother until the very end of the book?

4. A main idea of the book is the road trip that Sal takes with her Gram and Gramps. Have a look at a map of the United States and see if you can track her journey through the states. Have you ever been on a long road trip? Where did you go and why?

5. A good word to know when we're talking about books is **metaphor**. A metaphor is a word or phrase that is used to make a comparison between two people, things, animals or places. A metaphor can be used to make a more visual description of the thing you're talking about: *The snow was a white blanket. Her eyes were fire. The thunder was a mighty lion's roar.*

In *Walk Two Moons* Sal's actual road trip in the car with her grandparents could be a metaphor for a different kind of journey Sal is making. Sharon Creech said:

*"The physical journey is always a metaphor for the interior journey. And perhaps because I lived so much of my life outside of my home country, I am in tune to this notion that, as you go, you are learning something not only about the world, but also about yourself in the process."*

What other kind of journey is Sal making in the book, with her feelings? Does anyone else in the book make an emotional journey?

6. Another good phrase to know to be able to discuss books is **narrative thread**. Sometimes this is called the plot thread, or the storyline. It is the story being told, and is made of the

character(s) and what they do. Sometimes there is one main narrative thread that leads you from the start of the story, through the middle action, to the conclusion at the end. In *Walk Two Moons*, Sharon Creech very cleverly weaves several narrative threads together, all the way through the book. The narrative threads criss-cross within the chapters, going backwards in time, and overlapping. What would you say are the three main narrative threads in *Walk Two Moons*?

7. Did you like the way Sharon Creech weaved several narrative threads together? How did it make you feel when the storylines were criss-crossing?

Have you read any other book that uses this same technique?

8. The title of the book comes from the Native American Indian saying '*Don't judge a man until you've walked two moons in his moccasins.*' Pick a character from the book and try on their moccasins. How do you think Phoebe; Sal's dad; Mrs. Cadaver; or Gram... felt at different times in the book?

Then pick someone you know in real-life and try on their moccasins. Think of the last person you had an argument with, or someone you disagree with, and try thinking how they think: not about what they did to you, but *why*, from their point of view, they might have done it.