

DEAR CANADA

DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Country of Our Own **The Confederation Diary of Rosie Dunn** By Karleen Bradford

1. Why did Rosie mind so much having to leave school? What do you suppose school meant to her?
2. What most surprised you about what Ottawa was like in 1866 when Rosie moved there?
3. Can you understand how Rosie felt at being separated from her family and not knowing when, if ever, she would see them again? Do you think that her fear that they would forget her was justified?
4. Do you think it was fair of Mary Margaret to ask Rosie to go to Ottawa in her place? Would you do something like that for your brother or sister? If you didn't, would you feel guilty about it? Do you think Mary Margaret felt guilty?
5. What made Bessie change her mind about Briney? Do you think that this led to the lessening of her prejudice against the Irish in Ottawa? Why do you suppose Briney and Jean-Louis were able to be friends when the Irish and English in Ottawa were at odds so much of the time?
6. How hard do you think it was for Briney to make the decision to quit school and go to work in the sawmill in his brother's place? Do you think he regretted it in later years? How do you suppose his brother Thomas felt when he heard Rosie arguing with Briney about his decision? Have you ever had to make a decision to do something that you really did not want to do?
7. Do you think Rosie should have left the Bradleys when she felt they were accusing her unjustly of stealing the bracelet?
8. The opposition to uniting the British Colonies into one country made the work of the leaders of the Province of Canada more difficult. Have you ever had trouble trying to make a group of friends or classmates come to an agreement over some problem? Describe what was easy and difficult about that process. Did it sometimes fail? In what ways would it be like what Macdonald, McGee and the others were going through to get their constituents to agree to Confederation?
9. How important to you is the fact that Canada became a "country of our own" instead of remaining a collection of British colonies?