

DEAR CANADA

Discussion Guide

Flame and Ashes

The Great Fire Diary of Triffie Winsor

by Janet McNaughton

1. When Ruby returns to St. John's in the fall, how has Triffie's attitude towards her changed? How do you know?
2. How did Triffie's mother feel about the one glass vase that was returned to her? Can you understand why she felt that way?
3. What items do you have in your house that could have been bought at a store like Winsor & Son? Do you know of any stores that actually make the things they sell?
4. Choose a word or term from the glossary that you find interesting. Write a short paragraph using it, or find a way to use it in conversation today.
5. Ruby is only a year older than Triffie. How does Ruby feel about living so far away from home? Can you recall a time when you were homesick? How did you keep in touch with your family?
6. If Ruby had written a letter to the Winsor family after she arrived back in her home, what do you think she would have said? Can you imagine the sorts of things she would be doing once she got there?
7. Ned's life changes for the better after the fire, though other residents found that things were much worse for them. Can you think of a time when something good came out of a bad situation?