

# DEAR CANADA

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### **Turned Away** **The World War II Diary of Devorah Bernstein** By Carol Matas

1. By 1941, Canada has been at war for several years. What was life like for the people in Canada?
2. How did the war abroad affect the people on the home front?
3. What is the significance of the title, *Turned Away*?
4. Does Devorah do the right thing to write to Agatha Christie about her remarks about Jews? Or is Marcie right that she should just ignore them?
5. What is Devorah's family's reaction when they find out that the Canadians surrendered to the Japanese at Hong Kong? Why?
6. Why doesn't Devorah's mother want her and her friends to speak to the Premier about helping Sarah's and other Jewish families out of Europe? Why don't they know for sure about the Nazi concentration camps?
7. Devorah has some important conversations with her father. What lessons is she learning from him?
8. Devorah tries to make sense of many sad and bad things that happen. She asks her father, mother and brother a lot of serious questions. How do they explain these sad events to her? How do they make sense of evil? What does Devorah resolve at the end?