

Questions for Discussion

1. It's not unusual for mothers and daughters to see the same situation differently, through different eyes.
a) Daughters: Do you think Flossie's mother is being unreasonable when she bursts out with, "Why can't you jump at this fantastic chance, Floss? . . . Look, you're coming with us, whether you like it or not!" (p. 84) Is Mum overreacting?
b) Mothers: Is Flossie's mother worrying too much or not enough?
2. Why is it so hard for Flossie to leave her father for just six months? What is she so concerned about? Her mother accuses her of loving Dad better (p. 84), and even Rhiannon asks, "Do you love your dad much more than your mum then?" (p. 105) Does she?
3. In the time leading up to their departure, Mum behaves alternately angry and cuddly. Is this normal? How about Flossie's feelings after she gets her way and moves in with Dad? She's nauseous and has nightmares. Is that normal?
4. Why does Floss cherish Rhiannon's friendship even though she's so bossy? Do you think Judy, Margot, and Rhiannon are bullies?
5. Does Mrs. Horsefield realize what is going on between the girls in her class? What role do you feel teachers and/or parents should play in helping resolve childhood conflicts or in protecting their children?
6. What are some of Floss's techniques to bring order into her chaotic life? Are they successful? Do you have any self-calming methods?
7. "Dad had lots of spare time to spruce up the café now but he never seemed to get round to it" (p. 36).
"Dad's going to finish painting the chest when he can find some more silver paint" (p. 104).
"I'm not much cop at anything, am I?" says Dad (p. 219).
Is Dad sympathetic or just pathetic? How much of his problems are of his own making?
8. Can you imagine English girls trying to sound cool by talking "American"? What are some of your favorite British words/sayings?
9. Flossie and Susan may be the closest of friends, but their personalities are very different. Are you more a Flossie or a Susan?
10. Pictography is the kind of drawing that precedes each chapter in this book. Since it represents the activities or events about to take place, you got kind of a preview of coming attractions. How does it help tell the story? Set the mood? If you were

going to make a pictograph of your week, which five or six episodes would you draw?

11. Does Dad expose Flossie to dangers unnecessarily?
Does Flossie sometimes seem more the parent?
12. What do you think of Rose? How does she compare to Steve as a stepparent?
13. Is Dad going to join the fair for good? Will Floss dye her hair pink? What happens next?