



Pollyanna



*Retold from the Eleanor H. Porter
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STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS
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What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



Have you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places,

and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. Aunt Polly is willing to take Pollyanna in, but she isn't very warm toward her. Why do you think this is? Have you ever known anyone who acts like Aunt Polly?

2. How does Pollyanna react when she learns that Nancy is not her aunt? Why do you suppose Nancy is hesitant to tell her the truth? Have you ever been unsure how to tell someone something? Did you finally tell them?

3. Why do you suppose Aunt Polly doesn't want to hear about Pollyanna's father? How does Pollyanna react to this? Have you ever been told not to talk about something?

4. Why is Pollyanna glad to have no mirror in her room? Which of your features do you least like to look at in the mirror? What is your favorite part of your appearance?

5. Why do you suppose Pollyanna is so eager to teach everyone the Just Be Glad game? Do you think it's always possible to find something to be glad about? What makes you glad?

6. Pollyanna explains to Aunt Polly that she needs time in her day for "living." Do you agree with her? How do you spend your free time?

7. Dr. Chilton tells Pollyanna that she has made quite a difference in many people's lives. Do you agree? Whose life do you think you have affected the most?

8. Why do you think Aunt Polly gets upset when Pollyanna tells Mr. Pendleton that Aunt Polly didn't send the jelly? Have you ever accidentally told someone something they shouldn't know?

9. Mr. Pendleton says, “You know, Miss Pollyanna, I think the greatest, most wonderful prism of them all is you.” What do you suppose he means by this? Have you ever met anyone like Pollyanna?

10. Pollyanna has no secrets of her own, so it never occurs to her to keep other people’s secrets. Do you think this is good or bad? Have you ever been asked to keep a secret?