



Dawn of Day

Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of the story, Aunt Jo doesn't appear to like Henrietta and Irma Jean. Is there a similarity between Aunt Jo's attitude about the girls' parents and how masters treated slaves?
2. The Connecticut Kansas Company came to Kansas for two main reasons. What were they and why were they so important to them?
3. What part did Rev. Henry Ward Beecher play in their decision to come to Kansas?
4. The Company brought Bibles and rifles with them to Kansas. What was the purpose of bringing both?
5. Why did Maude think it was important to tell Henrietta and Irma Jean about the history of Wabaunsee?
6. What was the difference in the beliefs Of the Border Ruffians and Free State men
7. Why was the Wabaunsee Prairie Guards formed?
8. What war did the time they called "bleeding Kansas" lead up to?
9. John Brown was nationally known for wanting to abolish slavery. What do you think he did right? What do you think he did wrong?
10. The people of Wabaunsee who helped slaves escape on the Underground Railroad sometimes had to put their own families in danger. Would you have helped the slaves? Why or why not?
11. Which character in the story would you like to meet in person? Why?
12. The title of the book is Dawn of Day, which is the meaning of the Indian word Wabaunsee. Can you think of another title that could have been used?
13. Henrietta and Jesse both had younger sisters. How were their relationships as siblings alike? How were they different?
14. What is your favorite kind of cookie?