

Adventist Girls Series Book Reviews and Activities

Books Reviewed: A Song For Grandfather, Miss Button And The School Board, A Secret In The Family, & Sarah's Disappointment.

Biographical Information:

Jean Pepper Boonstra was born in Alberta, Canada. She grew up in a Catholic home and at the age of fifteen moved to Victoria, British Columbia. Jean attended the University of Victoria where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science. While she attended university she met her future husband, Shawn. They were both in search of the truth and attended an It Is Written seminar that resulted in their baptism in February 1993. They were married the following October. She lives in Oshawa, Ontario with her husband and two daughters. Jean loves walking, cycling, reading, and wandering through musty old antique shops. Her favourite activity is spending time with her daughters. It was her love for Adventist history that inspired her to write the Adventist Girl Series.



Synopsis of Writing Style: These books are very descriptive. The author does a wonderful job of creating an image in the mind of the reader. At times I felt as though I was watching a movie rather than reading a book. As I read these books I had a difficult time not becoming emotionally involved. I felt as though I had become the main character in each of the books, Sarah. Jean wrote all four of these books from Sarah's perspective. I do not remember at any point while I was reading, having the feeling as

though something was missing. The author did a marvellous job of making smooth transitions from one scene to another. The story line moves along at a steady pace with the use of conversation between Sarah and the people around her. Although I was only required to read three books written by this author, I felt compelled to read all four in the series.

Themes: The main theme in all four of these books was based on the expected soon return of Christ as believed by many members of the Methodist church at that time. The secondary themes in each of these books were as follows:

A Song For Grandfather

- Sarah's love for her grandfather
- Living with extended family
- Sickness and death

Miss Button And The School Board

- Love for a teacher
- Cooperation
- Prayer
- Trust in God

A Secret In The Family

- New siblings
- Friendship
- Respect
- Trust

Sarah's Disappointment

- Responsibility
- Disappointment
- Helplessness
- Love

Book: A Secret in the Family, by Jean Boonstra – Historical Fiction

Activity #1

Poster and Story

Create a poster of what you think the Second Coming will look like. Write a story to go with your picture that tells about your picture. Be prepared to share your project with the class.

Materials:

- Poster board
- Oil Pastels
- Pencils
- Paper

You may work with a partner to create the poster. Each student must write his or her own story.

Activity #2

Interviews

Interview five people about their views, ideas, beliefs and expectations of the Second Coming. Please use the following guidelines:

1. Create a standard interview sheet that you will use for all the people you interview.
 - a. Be sure the questions are applicable to all the age ranges.
 - b. Interview must consist of a minimum of 10 questions – maximum of 15 questions.
 - c. Copy the number of interview sheets needed – one for each person you interview
 - d. Include persons age and **first name only** on each interview sheet
2. Interview five (5) people
 - a. One person over 70 years of age
 - b. One person between the age of 45 – 60 years
 - c. One person between the age of 20 – 30 years
 - d. One person who is within 2 years of your age (older or younger)
 - e. One person more than 2 years younger than you
3. Make your work look professional and be prepared to share two of your favorite interviews with the class.

Activity #3

STORYBOARD ACTIVITY

Create a storyboard about the events that lead up to Sarah's "blow up".
Creating a storyboard is like making your own comic strip. In preparation for your storyboard, complete the following comic strip style format. Be creative and include color in your drawings.
