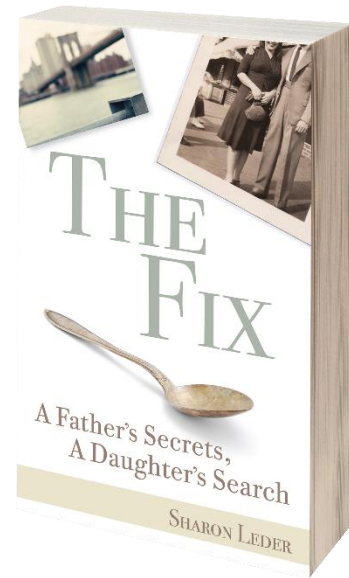




The Fix: A Father's Secrets, A Daughter's Search

by Sharon Leder is an excellent conversation starter for middle school and high school classes, as well as for addiction-recovery groups. Here are some suggestions for using the book with your group.



Discussion and Reflection Questions

1. How does Sara's father's addiction to heroin affect Sara's relationships with her father, her mother, and other members of her family?
2. Why is Sara so intent on knowing the reason her father cannot stop his heroin addiction? How would having this information change her relationship to him?
3. Why does Sara's mother, Helen, keep the history and the details of Josef's addiction a secret? Is she right to withhold information about Josef's addiction from Sara?
4. Why is there so much conflict between Sara's grandparents and Helen? Why do they force Josef to move in with them?
5. Why do you think Josef cannot end his addiction? Were there other options available that he didn't try?
6. How does Sara deal with and try to adjust to the family problems she faces?
7. Why does Sara have such a hard time talking to her father about his drug problem?
8. How do the Civil Rights and Women's Movements affect Sara? Over time, how do they change the way she views her mother and father?
9. As the novel ends, what kind of place is Sara in mentally and emotionally?
10. How could this novel be helpful to other adolescents and parents?



Role-Playing Activities

1. Volunteers can be selected by the facilitator to play eight-year-old Sara; her mother, Helen; and her grandmother, Hannah. Ask the volunteers to enact the scene in which Grandma Hannah tells Sara to persuade her father to stop using drugs. The volunteer playing Helen should take the opportunity to intervene using words that are not provided in the novel. The volunteers should take the freedom to have Helen, Grandma Hannah, and Sara speak to one another in new ways.
2. Two people can be selected by the facilitator to play ten-year-old Sara and her father, Josef, as Josef is explaining to Sara that he will spend time receiving shock therapy at Hawthorne Lodge in Connecticut. The volunteer playing Sara can tell her father how she really feels about his going away from the family a second time, and how she feels about his drug problem. The volunteer playing Josef can use his or her own words to respond.

To order additional copies of *The Fix*, please visit KiCamProjects.com or Amazon.com.

To learn more about author Sharon Leder, please visit SharonLeder.com.