



Finding Josie

.....
WENDY BILEN
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Finding Josie is a deeply personal book about Wendy Bilen’s search for herself and her family history. Do you think that the book can be as meaningful for readers as it was for Bilen?

The book has been described as a fusion of memoir and historical research. Could Josie’s story be just as effective if the book were only a memoir or only based on historical records and facts? Why or why not?

Discuss the genre of creative nonfiction. Is it less accurate than more “objective” historical accounts that primarily rely on facts and statistics or can it in some ways be more “true” than those accounts?

What part of Bilen’s quest to find meaning in her life most surprised you and why?

What wisdom can you garner from your own family history that impacts the way you live today?

One reviewer of *Finding Josie* argued that Josie's story should have played a more prominent role in the book. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Why or why not?

Describe Bilén's writing style. What do you like and dislike about it?

What characteristic(s) of Josie do you find most intriguing and why?

What element(s) of Josie's personality accounted for her taking on the challenge of giving people in need a home?

Did a particular passage in *Finding Josie* stand out to you most?

