

## Discussion Guide for *A Family Apart*

As a group, discuss poverty and homelessness. Write what you know about each on your chart paper. How can a person get out of poverty? Discuss your feelings about poverty with your group and record your thoughts in your literature log. Why are some people unkind to people who are poor? What agencies help those who are hungry and homeless?

Discuss runaways. Why do some people leave certain areas? Why did the family in this story leave Ireland?

Why is school important? Why didn't the children in the story go to school?

What is an orphan? Why did the mother send the children away in the story? Did she love them? Should the children feel angry and rejected?

Historical Notes:

- What is child labor?
- What was the potato "famine" in Ireland? Write your ideas.
- What was the Underground Railroad? How did it work?

Vocabulary: Discuss these words and write definitions to these words in your literature logs:

pungent; determination; wavered; indignation; adopt; donation; prominent; jaunty;  
tantalizing; instinctively