

Discussion Guide for *Riding Freedom*

What is women's suffrage? Why did women want to vote? Why weren't they allowed to vote? Who were some important women in this movement?

What was life like for girls in the 1800s? As a group, make a chart with these headings: clothes, work, manners, image.

What is an orphanage? (Read the passage in the book that explains orphanages and discuss it as a group.) What is adoption?

What was the Pony Express and why was it important?

What was farm life, school life, and social life like in the Old West in the 1800s?

What was gold mining?

Discuss what you know about the main character. As a group, create a character map of Charlotte.

Find several quotations that are examples of figurative language and explain the meaning of each.

Examples: "He's got a cold heart" (26).

"determined as a mule and tough as a rawhide bone" (4).

Map skills: Charlotte traveled across the U.S. Chart her journey and label the states and places on her route to California.

Vocabulary: Discuss these words and write definitions to these words in your literature logs: prospective; mourning; verge; strapping; tendril; droning; satchel; precarious; raspy; jittery