

## **Sixties Girl by MaryLou Driedger**

**Before you read the book.....**

- 1. Brainstorm for all the things you know about the 1960s. What important things happened in the world during that decade? What music or fashion was popular during that time? What are some things you would like to learn about the 1960s?**
- 2. Interview someone you know like a grandparent or older friend who was alive in the 1960s. What are their memories of the 60s? What did they do for fun? What kinds of cars did their families drive? What was school like for them? Ask them how their life was different in the 60s than yours is now?**
- 3. Look at the cover of *Sixties Girl*. Write down two questions the cover makes you ask and two predictions you have about what might happen in the book.**
- 4. *Sixties Girl* is about the relationship between a boy and his grandmother. Have a conversation with someone and tell each other about your grandparents or an older friend and your relationship with them. Can you show your conversation partner a photo of your grandparent or older friend?**
- 5. *Sixties Girl* is also about the relationship between a boy and his two best friends and some problems they are having. Think about a problem or disagreement you have had with your friends. Can you use a comic strip or a series of sketches to illustrate the problem and what happened because of it?**

6. Go to the author MaryLou Driedger's website and [read about her life](#) and [how she became an author](#).
7. Before or after you read about a certain year in the 1960s in the book you may want to check the historical notes about that year at the back of the book.

## **Chapter 1- I Don't Need A Babysitter**

**Will Sanders thinks he is old enough to stay alone after school. His parents don't agree and want him to go to his grandmother's house once a week. But Will has lied to his best friends Emmaline and Aneesh about having a grandmother. How will he keep them from finding out he is going to his Grandma's after school?**

1. In the provinces of Manitoba and New Brunswick the law says children under twelve can't stay alone unsupervised. Why do you think they have that rule? Do think it is fair? Find out what the rules are in other provinces in Canada for children staying alone.
2. The words 'jam' and 'jammed' are both used in this chapter and mean something completely different. Can you find the words and figure out their meaning using context clues? Does the word jam have other meanings too?
3. The dog who will find his way into many chapters of this book is Mendelssohn. He is named in honor of Felix Mendelssohn a musician. Can you make a top ten list about Felix Mendelssohn and listen to some of his music. Why do you think Leon picked that name for his dog?

4. Will's new school is named after a woman named Helen Armstrong. She played a very important role in one of the most important events in Winnipeg and Canadian history- The Winnipeg General Strike of 1919. A large piece of public art in Winnipeg is a reminder of that strike. You can read more about it [here](#). You can read more about Helen Armstrong [here](#). Can you share what you've learned about Helen with your classmates or your family?

## Chapter 2- Wet Pants

Laura has a terrible day at school and wets her pants on the bus ride home. She is upset with the nuns who are her teachers and in a way feels they are responsible for her accident. She tells her Mom all about it.

1. Author MaryLou Driedger went to a school in St. Boniface where many of the teachers were nuns who disciplined children with the kind of wooden clappers that are talked about in this chapter. You can read more about them [here](#).
2. In the 1960s it was still very common for most people of the Catholic religion to eat fish, rather than other kinds of meat on Fridays. Friday is the day Jesus is said to have died on the cross and many people believed it should be a day when you gave something up in remembrance of that, so they gave up eating meat, and ate fish instead. This is a religious practice that has changed and is not as common today. Can you think of a practice that has changed in the religious faith of your family, a family you know or a family you have encountered in a movie or another book?

3. Author MaryLou Driedger once lived in an apartment building on the grounds of the St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg. While she was writing *Sixties Girl* she went back to visit it. You can read about that [here](#). She also remembers attending a Christmas party hosted by the nuns her father worked with at the hospital. You can read about that [here](#).
4. Find out what these things are- *a metronome, pedal pushers, bobby socks, a nun's habit, Kool-Aid, and a telegraph operator.*

### Chapter 3- Playing Parcheesi

Will makes up another excuse about why he can't get together with Emmaline and Aneesh on Wednesday. He plays a game of Parcheesi with Grandma and asks some questions about the first story she told him. He finds an interesting newspaper clipping in the suitcase and asks Grandma to tell him about it.

1. Parcheesi is a game that originated in ancient India. Find out what a game board for Parcheesi looks like. Can you make one, find some movers and dice and play the game?
2. Laura goes to Sir John Franklin School in grade two. Sir John Franklin was an explorer. Can you find out more about him? Why do you think a school would be named after him? Many people say Sir John Franklin would have survived if he had listened to the wisdom of the Inuit people. What can you find out about that?

3. **Grandma tells Will that unkind people are always hard to deal with no matter how old they are. Brainstorm with your family or classmates for helpful and constructive ways to respond to someone who treats you unkindly.**
4. **Will is doing a social studies project on the history of soccer. Pick your favourite sport and write about its history. Here are some questions you might try and answer. How and where did the sport start? Who are some people that have become famous playing that sport? What are some of the good things and not so good things about the sport? What kind of equipment or special clothing do you need to play the sport? What are some important rules of the sport? Why is it your favourite sport?**

#### **Chapter 4- A Car in The Living Room**

**Laura and her friend June are on their way to school on Remembrance Day when they encounter Laura's cranky next door neighbour Mrs. Withers. The girls learn more about how war effects families from their teacher at school. Later Laura witnesses a bad accident at the Withers' house. Laura wonders if sad things that happen to your family can make you sad for a long time.**

1. **Laura talks about the crystal gardens they are growing at school. Growing crystal gardens is an interesting science experiment to try. You can do it with just a few supplies. [Here is a website](#) that will give you directions for growing a crystal garden of your own.**

2. Laura's class learns the poem *In Flanders Fields*. Have you heard it before? Where and when? [Can you read it?](#) Who is narrating this poem? The poet who wrote *In Flanders Fields* was written by a Canadian doctor named John McCrae during World War I. He was in a hospital tent where he was caring for wounded soldiers and looking out over a field of soldier's graves in front of him. Can you imagine the scene he saw from the description in the poem?

The musical group Sabaton has a beautiful version of *In Flanders Fields*. Can you listen to it?

3. June and Laura sing *O Canada* with the words 'in all our son's command.' That phrase is no longer in our national anthem. Now we sing 'in all of us command.' Why do you think the words were changed? Do you know that since 1901 when *O Canada* first became our national anthem the words of the song have been changed many times? Research what some of those changes were and talk about them with your classmates.

4. During World War II many Canadian children's parents were in other countries fighting in a war just like Ronnie Withers' and Miss O'Shay's fathers in the book. How might it feel to know your parent was far away and in a dangerous situation? Can you imagine that happening to you? Imagine one of your parents is far away. Write a letter to them telling them what you are doing and how you are feeling.

## Chapter 5- Finding Friends

We learn how Will met his friends Aneesh and Emmaline. Will lies to his friends again about being busy on Wednesdays. He wishes he could just tell them the truth. At Grandma's house he chooses a poetry book from the suitcase for Grandma to use as the portal into her next sixties story.

1. Will says he knows about Emily Pauline Johnson the Mohawk poet from a graphic novel by David Alexander Robertson he has read. The graphic novel is called [The Poet](#). Would you like to read it too?
2. Grandma's desk is really messy! Some people say they can be more creative when they have all kinds of things spread out around them- things that can inspire them and they need at their fingertips to do their creative work. Other people like to work and create in clean and organized spaces and messiness distracts them and they can't focus. What kind of person are you?
3. What do you think Grandma's new book *Walk Backwards and Sing* might be about?
4. Aneesh plays the trombone and Will plays the tuba. Can you find out a little bit more about these two instruments? In what ways are they the same? In what ways are they different?

## Chapter 6- My Brother Could Die

Laura's little brother Frankie is sick. Due to a bad snowstorm the power lines and phone lines are down. Laura says she will walk to the hospital to get her Dad who is a doctor so

he can come home and help Frankie. Her Mom is very worried about Laura making the dangerous trip in such bad weather conditions.

1. When an author hints at something before it happens, it is called foreshadowing.

Can you find a paragraph that foreshadows the fact that Frankie may be sick before we find out he actually is?

2. Laura is scared of dogs. She deals with her fear by reciting a poem she knows. It helps to calm her and helps her focus on something other than her fear. Some people find it helpful to whistle when they are scared or take deep breaths. What are some other strategies you can use to help you cope when you are feeling scared?

3. A simile is a literary device where the words *like* or *as* are used to compare things.

The first simile in this chapter is “Marjorie bolted straight up in her bed like a puppet yanked from its dreams by a string.” Can you find at least four more?

4. Have you ever tried making angels in the snow? You can look online to see how to do it. Why does Laura make a snow angel?

## Chapter 7- Another Lie

Will goes to Aneesh’s house for supper. Aneesh and Emmaline show him their social studies project. Will lies again when they ask him to help them photograph some public art that honors World War II soldiers in Winnipeg. Will memorizes *The Song My Paddle Sings* and then recites it with Grandma.



1. There are many interesting pieces of public art that help us remember the people who died in World War II in the city of Winnipeg where Will lives.

Click on the links below to read about some of them. What are some pieces of public art in your community that serve as World War II memorials?

[Statue of William Stephenson](#)

[Women Soldiers](#)

[Statue of Andrew Mynarski](#)

[Holocaust Memorial](#)

2. Will memorizes [The Song My Paddle Sings](#). Can you practice reading part of the poem out loud? Use a steady pace, clear diction, an interesting voice, and an expressive face. Once you think you are ready- share your favorite part with your classmates.

Grandma and Will make up actions for some parts of the poem. Can you do that too? There is a musical version of the poem *The Song My Paddle Sings* written by Canadian composer Matthew Emery. Listen to one of the choirs that have recorded the song and posted it online.

3. Will is invited for a family dinner at Aneesh's house. Look at these famous paintings of family dinners. Which one do you like the best? Why?

[Freedom From Want by Norman Rockwell](#)

[A Pastoral Visit by Richard Norris Brooke](#)

## One of the Family by Frederick George Cotman

## Soul Food by John Holyfield

What would be on the menu for your favourite family dinner?

4. Words or phrases to think about - *polish off, seethe, a slow day, samosas, piccolo, a dog person, her jaw drops.*

## Chapter 8- Missile Drill

Laura's class is having a school evacuation drill during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Laura has been assigned to help a younger student named Mattie return to her home. But Mattie has a mind of her own and when she and Laura find a wounded dog Mattie insists on rescuing it.

1. Although your school doesn't have drills to prepare for a missile attack like in the 1960s you do have drills to prepare for other kinds of emergencies like fires or lock downs. How do those drills make you feel? Are you happy your school has them or do you wish they didn't?
2. Laura and Mattie seem like very different people. What are some of their differences. Are there ways the two girls are the same?

3. **Laura has an encounter with a dog in the previous sixties story she told. How is this encounter different?**
4. **Problem- Action- Outcome. A good story has those three elements. What is the problem in this chapter? What actions are taken to try to deal with the problem? What is the final outcome?**

### **Chapter 9- With A Little Help From My Friends**

**Aneesh and Emmaline attend Will's soccer game and cheer him on. When Will is at his grandmothers he sees a photo of his grandfather who has died recently. It makes Will sad. Grandma Laura says her grandfather died when she was about Will's age.**

1. **Listen to the song *A Little Help From My Friends*. It was written by two members of the famous singing group The Beatles- John Lennon, and Paul McCartney. It has been recorded by various artists. (Note: There is a line in the song – “I get high with a little help from my friends”- writer John Lennon says this was not a reference to drugs. What does it mean?). How might the words of the song relate to Will's situation with his friends.**
2. **Can you draw a sketch of Will's grandfather based on his description of his grandfather's photo? Or maybe you would rather sketch a portrait of one of your grandparents that would help us learn something about them.**
3. **Have you attended a funeral for a grandparent or an older family friend? What do you remember about that experience? Have a conversation with another classmate about it.**

4. In this chapter we learn about some more bad experiences Will has had with the bullies at his old school. Can you remember some of the encounters Will had with the bullies in previous chapters? What happened during those?

#### Chapter 10- Where Were You?

Laura and her school classmates find out that the President of the United States John F. Kennedy has been assassinated. Laura is called home. She leaves school and arrives at her house to find out that her grandfather has been killed in a car accident.

1. Listen to the song *Keep on the Sunny Side*. What do you think it means to ‘keep on the sunny side of life’?
2. Can you watch an old news report where the newscaster is telling the audience about the death of President Kennedy? [This is the one](#) that was on Canada’s television station the CBC.
3. Each of the Johnson children shares something they liked to do with their Grandpa Peter. What were those things? What do you like to do with your grandparents?
4. Grandpa Peter is the main character in another book by MaryLou Driedger called *Lost on the Prairie*. If you’ve read the book share some things you remember about it with your classmates. If you haven’t read the book you might want to find it in your school or public library and check it out.

#### Chapter 11- A Walk in the Park

**Emmaline tells Will she is sure he will get into the concert band. Will goes to Grandma's and finds out she is looking after Leon's dog Mendelssohn. They take Mendelssohn for a walk to the park and meet Emmaline and Aneesh there. They are surprised to know that Will has a grandmother and wonder why he hasn't told them about her.**

- 1. Will talks about inheriting courage. Do you think it is possible to inherit courage from your parents and grandparents? You can inherit their hair color, or body shape or dimples, but can you inherit a character trait like courage? Discuss this with your family or classmates.**
- 2. Grandma and Will go to Stephen Juba Park. You can read more about the park and the mayor of Winnipeg it was named for [here](#).**
- 3. Will is relieved that Aneesh and Emmaline aren't going to tell Grandma that he let them think she was dead. Why do you think Aneesh and Emmaline decide to keep that to themselves?**
- 4. Mendelssohn is a basset hound. Author MaryLou Driedger chose to make the dog in the book a basset hound because they are dogs who adjust well to apartment living, do not like to be left alone, are friendly to family and strangers, are a bit hard to train and don't have a high energy level. How does Mendelssohn reflect these traits in the storyline of Sixties Girl? [At this link](#) you can find easy instructions for how to draw a basset hound.**

**Chapter 12- Lullaby for a Deer**

**Laura tells Will, Aneesh, Emmaline and Mendelssohn a story about a time her family rescued a stranded deer from a lake.**

- 1. Words and phrases to talk about- *askew, hula hooper, pedal pushers, tape recorder, serenaded, heebie jeebies, leeches, bullrushes, outhouse.***
- 2. Gin Rummy is not a difficult card game. It does involve some strategy and planning and a good bit of luck. Look up instructions for the game online and learn how to play.**
- 3. Sometimes in literature we talk about an unlikely hero. Someone saves the day who might not expect to do so. Why does Aunt Peggy seem like an unlikely hero at the beginning of this chapter?**
- 4. Aunt Peggy is the keeper of family stories. What are some stories in your family that everybody knows? What are some things that have happened in your family life that are important or funny or sad or interesting that have become stories which are told over and over again? Can you write one of them down and share it with your class?**

### **Chapter 13- Alone**

**After Grandma's story Will's friends find out that he has been lying to them about where he is on Wednesdays. Will's friends leave the park without even saying goodbye to him. They ignore him completely at school. Will goes to his Grandma's house and his great aunt is there visiting. Will goes into Grandma's study to work on his project and finds another story Grandma has written.**

- 1. Why do you think the author called this chapter *Alone*? What might be some other ideas for names for this chapter?**
- 2. Body language is when an author uses the actions of a character to convey what they are thinking and feeling. Look at how the author does that at the top of page 84. What kind of body language is used? What does their body language tell us about what the characters are thinking and feeling?**
- 3. Food plays a role in each of Will's visits to his grandmother's house. In this chapter they are having a fruit and chocolate tray. Can you remember some other snacks Will has had at his Grandma's? What is your favourite snack to have after school?**
- 4. Can you make a prediction about what Grandma's story *Seventeen Magazine* might be about?**

#### **Chapter 14- Seventeen Magazine**

**Laura is staying at her aunt and uncles while her parents are away. Her cousin Fern shows her some magazines meant for teenagers. Laura gets her period for the first time and is uncertain what to do. She asks her cousin Lillian for help.**

1. Here is a photo of the caboose like the one mentioned in the story that the author's grandparents owned. Her grandparents and aunts and uncles are standing beside it. Would you have liked to go for a ride in one?



2. Fern is scared of the bats in this chapter. Unfortunately, many people are scared of bats because they have false ideas about them. Yet scientists tell us there is no reason to be scared of bats. Do a little research and try to come up with a class list of things about bats that are interesting and special.
3. Many patterned quilts have a design that repeats itself over and over again. Look up some quilt designs online. What do you think the Circle of Time pattern might look like? Can you draw and color a square for the quilt?
4. If you have questions about puberty or the changes that will happen to your body as you grow up, you should talk to your parents or teachers about it or check out one of the books listed [here](#).

## Chapter 15- A Walk to the Forks



**Grandma talks to Will about the fact that he read her story called *Seventeen Magazine*. She tells him he should feel comfortable talking to her if there is anything about the story he wants to ask her questions about. Grandma and Will walk down to The Forks.**

- 1. Will is surprised by Grandma's reaction to finding out that he has read her story.**

**What do you think he was expecting her to say?**

- 2. Will tells Mrs. Ramos that he is the only one who can put things right with his friends. What do you think Will needs to do to restore their friendship?**

- 3. Can you find out what a piccolo looks like? Can you listen to some piccolo music. Will says the music Leon is playing is too cheerful. It doesn't match his mood. Do you think music needs to match your mood? Can music sometimes change our mood? What are some songs you listen to when you want to match a certain mood or when you want to change your mood?**

- 4. The Forks in Winnipeg is a place where the Red and Assiniboine Rivers meet. Indigenous people have been coming there to trade and meet for thousands of years. The Forks has one of the longest skating trails in Canada in winter and many special events are held there each year. You can read more about the history of The Forks [here](#).**

**Maybe you'd like to make some hot chocolate to sip on while you read the sixties story in the next chapter.**

**Chapter 16- Love and War**

**Laura and her family are on their way to Expo 67 in Montreal. Laura is very caught up in a novel with a romance in it. The family stops for lunch and witness an American soldier being arrested while his partner looks on. Laura thinks about what it means to love someone.**

- 1. During the Vietnam War many American soldiers escaped to Canada so they didn't have to serve in the army. Many of them thought the United States shouldn't be fighting in Vietnam. These soldiers that escaped to Canada were called draft dodgers. Can you find out what a draft is in a country at war? What does it mean to dodge something?**
- 2. Why do you think Laura's family ate in parks and picnic areas most of the time instead of in restaurants? Think of a long car trip your family has made. What do you do as you travel? Where does everyone sit in the car? Where do you stop for meals? What do you talk about? Does everyone always get along?**
- 3. Laura finds out that often real life is just as interesting as books and movies. Can you think of something that has happened in your life that might make an interesting story for a book or a movie? Turn to a friend and tell them about it.**
- 4. In 1967 Canada celebrated the fact that it had been a hundred years since four of the provinces joined together to officially become the country of Canada. Expo 67 in Montreal where Laura's family was going was one way to celebrate that anniversary. Look at Google Images for Expo 67. Pick four of them. Learn more about them and write captions for each image. Share your images with your class.**

**Will is surprised when Emmaline and Aneesh come to sit with him in the school cafeteria. He starts telling them about the bullying he experienced at his old school but doesn't have the courage to tell the whole story.**

**Will's cousin Alex has given him an old Halloween costume of his, but it is too big so Grandma is going to alter it for Will. Will wishes he was muscular like his cousin Alex. Grandma says that not everyone's body is the same shape and that's okay.**

- 1. Have you ever been bullied the way Will describes in this chapter? Will doesn't really tell us how he responded to the bullying. What are some things he could have done to try and stop the bullying? Here is [one list of steps to take](#) that might be helpful.**
- 2. There are some books about bullying that might have helped Will and might help you too. My writing friend Colleen Nelson has made a great list of books about bullying. You can find the list [here](#).**
- 3. Look at some images of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C. Many families come to the memorial to see the name of someone they loved which is on it. How do you think visiting the memorial makes them feel?**
- 4. What are three questions you have after reading this chapter? How could you find answers to them?**

**Chapter 18- Curvy**

**Laura is worried that she is overweight. She compares herself to the other girls in her class and her friends. Her Dad also thinks her Mom is overweight and weighs her each week.**

**Laura takes some of her Mom's diet pills and feels ill.**

- 1. Laura compares her body to the bodies of her friends, her sister, and her classmates. Do you ever compare yourself to others not just when it comes to body shape diversity but in other things as well? Do you think that is a healthy thing to do? Why or why not? What do both Grandma Laura in the previous chapter and Laura's Mom in this chapter have to say about doing that?**
- 2. Laura compares herself to women in the media in the 1960s. She talks about Twiggy a teen-age model, and Olivia Hussey a movie star. Some ways to stop making unrealistic comparisons between yourself and media personalities are to spend less time on social media, make lists of the things you are good at, celebrate times when you have been a success at something and think about all the things your body can do for you and why you are grateful for them. What are other steps you can take to stop yourself from making unrealistic comparisons with media personalities?**
- 3. Check out [this list of books](#) that can help you learn to appreciate and accept your body for its own unique beauty and wonder.**
- 4. Some fashion items from the 1960s are mentioned in this chapter. Laura's English teacher has a paisley shirt and a ponytail. Laura's classmate Lavinia wears false eyelashes and miniskirts. Some other fashion trends of the 60s were pill box hats, ponchos, bandanas, go-go boots, culottes, love beads, bell bottom pants, tie-dyed**

shirts, beehive hairdos and hot pants. Can you look more information about these fashion items and draw yourself wearing one or more of them?

## Chapter 19- Emergency

Will arrives at Grandma's only to find she has had an accident. He calls the ambulance and gets Leon to come and help. He is relieved to find out that Grandma is going to be alright.

1. This is Wednesday number ten at Grandma's house and something really dramatic happens on this visit. Can you make a list numbered one to ten and summarize in one sentence the main thing that has happened at Grandma's on each previous visit?
2. Will has referred to the babysitting course he took before in the book. Do you remember when that was and in what context? Discuss what might be *ironic* about the two different references to a babysitting course.
3. Will talks about the fact that he and Aneesh will both be in the brass section of the band if they make it. Aneesh plays the trombone and Will plays the tuba. What are some other instruments that would be in the brass section of the band?
4. Will tells Grandma that he's asked Dad to pick up her favourite kind of sushi. Sometimes when we aren't feeling well we need what we call 'comfort food'- foods that are our favourites that somehow make us feel better. What is one of your comfort foods- one you like to eat when you aren't feeling your best. Is it from a

restaurant or is it a food someone in your family makes. Learn what some of your friends' comfort foods are.

### **Chapter 20- Should I Be Driving?**

Laura's Mom has cancer and one day when there is no one else to take her to her treatments in Winnipeg Laura goes along with her Mom. She is very scared when her Mom is too sick to drive the car and Laura has to drive it home. With her Mom's encouragement they complete the trip safely.

- 1. What changes in their mother had the Johnson children noticed that made them think something might be wrong?**
- 2. There are many references in this story of Laura's that connect with things that have happened in previous stories she has told Will. Can you find five of them?**
- 3. This might be a good time to re-read Laura's first story which also takes place at the St. Boniface Hospital. How have things changed for Laura's family since then?**
- 4. Laura and her Mom listen to the Ford Family of Fine Music tape. That name is an example of alliteration where several words in the same sentence or title all start with the same letter. Can you find another example of alliteration in this chapter?**

### **Chapter 21- The Whole Story**

Aneesh and Will both get into the concert band. Will finally confesses the whole truth to his friends about happened with the bullies at his old school. Aneesh and Emmaline are understanding and supportive.

- 1. One of the locations in the Will sections of the book that we visit quite often is Grandma's apartment. But many other locations are also settings for scenes like the basketball court in this chapter. Can you make a list of other locations in the book and then make a sketch of something that happens in one of those locations.**
- 2. In this chapter before Will goes up to the bulletin board he pushes his glasses up his nose and straightens his shoulders. This is something Will does often in the book. Can you find other places where he does this? What do they have in common?**
- 3. One of the most important things you can do when you are being bullied is to tell an adult about it. Why didn't Will do that? Do you think he should have told his parents or his teachers? Do you think now that Will has found out from her stories what a strong person his Grandma really is, that he might tell her about what happened? Do you think he should? Why or why not?**
- 4. If Grandma does publish a book with her sixties stories what do you think she should call it? What would the cover look like?**

## **Chapter 22- Lullaby for Laura**

**Laura and her Uncle Herman hit a deer with their car. The deer is badly injured. Uncle Herman says they must kill the deer to put it out of its misery. Uncle Herman is too badly hurt to shoot the deer so Laura has to do it. Although her uncle has taught her to use a gun she really struggles with this. Later her grandmother reassures her she has done the right thing.**

- 1. We have met Uncle Herman in quite a number of Laura's stories. Can you find five other times in the novel he is mentioned? Can you make a list of things we have learned about Uncle Herman? Is he a character you like? Why or why not?**
- 2. This is the third time The Circle of Time quilt has been mentioned in the story. Can you remember the other two times we have heard about it? What do they have in common or how are they different than this time?**
- 3. A good author tries to include things that appeal to all five of the senses in their writing. In this chapter what sounds does the author describe and how does she describe them? What about sights and tastes and touch? The author has omitted the sense of smell. How could the author have included the sense of smell in this chapter?**
- 4. There is another chapter about a deer in *Sixties Girl*. It also has the word Lullaby in the title. Discuss the ways the two chapters are the same and different.**

### **Chapter 23 -The Right Thing**

**Emmaline and Aneesh are at Grandma's this week with Will. Will has told them the story about shooting the deer and they ask Grandma if they think the decision she made to shoot the deer was the right one. When they ask Grandma how you know whether you have done the right thing she says she will tell them another *Sixties Girl* story about that.**

- 1. Will and his friends ask Grandma how you know whether something is the right thing to do. Some questions to ask when you are trying to figure that out are....  
Will it hurt or help someone else? Is it fair? Has anyone ever told me this is wrong?**



**How will it make me feel after I do it? What would adults I respect say about it?**

**What are some other questions you could ask when you try to figure out what is the right thing to do?**

- 2. Think of a situation where you had to decide what was the right thing to do. Do you think you made the right decision? Why or why not? Ask some adults you know about hard decisions they have had to make. How did they know what was the right thing to do?**
- 3. Grandma says that sometimes rules or laws change over time as society changes. She talks about the way the rules have become much stricter about young people driving cars. Do a little research to find out about some other laws that have changed since the 1960s. Were those good changes? Two examples you might start with are that now there are much stricter laws about smoking indoors in public places and much stricter laws about wearing seatbelts in cars than there were in the 1960s.**
- 4. Words and phrases to talk about- *flouncy, slathers, livestock, rural, graduation hat, have the heart, Bali.***

## **Chapter 24- Paris Girl**

**Laura gives a speech at her graduation banquet. She is surprised at the reaction of a girl named Gloria. On the graduation night cruise and dance she has a talk with Gloria. Laura realizes that all through high school she has not been the person she thought she was. She goes home and tells her Mom all about it.**

1. It was something Laura *hadn't* done rather than what she *had* done that Gloria found so upsetting. What hadn't Laura done? We exclude people or ignore them for lots of different reasons. Can you think of a time when have you excluded someone or ignored them? Why did you do it? How could you have acted differently?
2. Go back and look at the first *Sixties Girl* story again. Just like Gloria felt left out in Laura's high school, Laura felt left out and different at her school in grade one. Think about a time when you may have felt left out and ignored. Can you write a story about it? Be sure to add lots of sensory details and write about how you felt as well as what happened.
3. Just like Laura told her Mom all about her terrible day in grade one in the *first Sixties Girl* story she goes home after her *last* experience in high school and tells her Mom everything again. Who is the person you can talk to like that in your life? Is it a family member, a friend, a teacher, a coach? What makes it easy to talk to them?
4. Can you find examples of these literary techniques in this chapter- hyperbole, personification, alliteration, idiom, rhetorical question, and simile?

## Chapter 25- Birthday

Grandma Laura plans a surprise party for Will. He gets some gifts including a phone from his grandmother. His parents have agreed he can have one and have also agreed he can stay home alone now after school. Will asks his parents if he can still come to Grandma's on some Wednesdays and she agrees. Emmaline and Aneesh ask if they can join them too.

1. Will says the next story he wants to hear from Grandma is the one that goes with the Paris postcard. What do you think that story will be about?
2. Will observes that the things that happened to his Grandma Laura in the sixties changed her. In which of her stories did Laura become braver, did she learn to problem solve, did she become more understanding of others, did she become kinder, did she learn to see people in new ways, did she gain more understanding of herself? Can you think of other ways Grandma changed because of what happened to her?
3. What changes have you seen in Will as you have read this book?

#### **Things to do after you have read *Sixties Girl*.**

1. Make two lists. One of all the characters in Laura's stories and another of all the characters in Will's stories. Pick a minor character that we didn't really get to know too well in the story. Draw a picture of them and write a character sketch for them using details for the story but also adding things you would like to imagine about them.
2. Have you ever heard of a book bento? [Read about one](#) that a class of students made for the author's first book *Lost on the Prairie*. Can you make a book bento for *Sixties Girl*?
3. This book has alternating narrators. We first hear from Will and then from Laura. Did you like that or was it confusing? Would you have preferred to just hear Will's story or just hear Laura's story or just have had one of them narrating both stories?

- 4. Can you make a list of all the items in Grandma Laura's suitcase or sketch them and use one or two sentences to summarize the story she told about that item?**
- 5. Look at the historical notes at the end of the book. Pick five of them and talk about or write about how they connect with events in Laura's stories. Pick one of the historical notes and do more research about it. Use a power point to report to your classmates about what you have learned about that particular historical reference.**
- 6. Go to the author's website and under reviews look at what other people have said about *Sixties Girl*. Do you agree or disagree with what they have written?**