



Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park
Discussion Questions

Directions: Read the book with your child and use the questions to increase his or her understanding of the book's message.

1. What is the **setting** of this story? Who are the **main characters**?
2. What does WGGL stand for? Why do Julia and Patrick have to choose a project for WGGL (or Wiggle, as they call it)?
3. Early on in the book, Julia says, "I wanted a nice, normal, All-American, red-white-and-blue kind of project" (p. 35). What does Julia mean when she says this? Why doesn't she like the idea of a silkworm project at first?
4. Describe Julia and Patrick's friendship. Aside from being next-door neighbors, what makes them good friends?
5. Who is "Agent J. Song" (page 63)? What makes Julia eventually change her mind about doing the silkworm project?
6. Julia uses the lifecycle of the silk worm to reflect on her own thoughts about the project (page 252). What are three lessons that Julia learns from doing this project? What was something you learned about silkworms from reading this book?
7. Every April we celebrate Earth Day to learn new ways to care for the environment and appreciate our planet! What did you learn about farming and sustainability from *Project Mulberry*?
8. On page 15, Ms. Park tells Julia, "You're the main character. You have to have a problem or two. If you didn't, there wouldn't be any story." What was it like to read conversations between the author, Linda Sue Park, and the main character, Julia? What did you learn about the process of writing a book?
9. Julie thinks, "Not bothering to find out because you didn't know that you didn't know...*That* was the problem" (p. 166). How does Julia feel when Mr. Dixon assumes her family is Chinese (when her family is Korean)? What are ways that we can be accepting and open-minded with friends, neighbors, and classmates when we're still getting to know them?

Extra challenge! Choose three of the vocab words below and write out the definition and an example sentence for each word.

Words:

- Maelstrom
- Embroidery
- Pessimist
- Dense
- Petri dish
- Phobia
- Angelic

1.

2.

3.
