Book Club Questions for THE MADONNA GHOST

1. What does Annie's reaction to observing her aunt talking to the strange man on the ferry say to you about her feelings for her aunt?
2. How would you have reacted to meeting Ty? Do you ever practice what you will say when you meet someone new?
3. What does Annie's reaction to finding out about Ty's "family" tell you about Annie?
4. What should Annie do when her father calls?
5. Compare how Annie feels about Ty to any relationships you have.
6. How would you have reacted to Ty's admission, "I've seen the ghost," when they were sailing.
7. Do you think that Aunt Jill could do something to alleviate Annie's fears for her aunt's safety?
8. How does Alice make you feel about ghosts and ghost research?
9. Did you like Alice? Was she friendly or overbearing?
10. What did you think about Doc? Was he a suspicious character at first because of his reluctance to do something about "the neighbors"?
11. Did your feelings about Ty change after the visit to his father at the hospital?
12. What did you think of how Annie reacted to meeting Ty's father? Will it help her to deal with her mother's problem?
13. How does Ty prove to be a real friend as well as a "boy friend"?
14. So far, what do you think Annie's best characteristics are and why?
15. Same question for Ty.
16. If someone invited you on a ghost watch, what would you do?
17. Do you think that Annie made progress with her relationship with her parents as a result of the events in the book?
18. How did Annie and Ty show respect for each other as caring human beings throughout the book?
19. What kind of relationship would you like to have with a male friend?
20. Even though Annie's parents weren't traditional parents, did she have enough support from other adults. Explain.
21. What evidence did you find in the book to support the idea of respect in the various personal relationships occurring in the book? In other words, how did the characters in the book show respect or disrespect for each other?
22. Can you see yourself doing the same things Annie did that got her involved in such dangerous situations? What would you have done differently?
23. What was the most exciting part of the book for you?
24. By the end of the book, were you a ghost-believer, a ghost-still-need-more-proof, or a ghost-non-believer? Explain.

Book Club Questions for THE MADONNA GHOST

1. What does Annie's reaction to observing her aunt talking to the strange man on the ferry say to you about her feelings for her aunt?

   P. 1-2 Set the stage and tell more of the story.
   Why is Annie suspicious? P. 4-5
   Later on Annie sees the men on the porch and overhears her aunt on the phone, P. 11, bottom to 13.
   Can anyone relate?

2. How would you have reacted to meeting Ty? Do you ever practice what you will say when you meet someone new?
   What about your appearance?
   Do you worry about finding friends in new settings, first day of school, camp, vacation?
   Moms! How do you feel about your daughters' efforts to meet friends?
   Girls! How does mom help you? What would you like her to do?
   P. 6-8

3. What does Annie's reaction to finding out about Ty's "family" tell you about Annie?
   What can parents do to ease these difficult relationships?
   PP.17,18.

4. What should Annie do when her father calls?
   P.18, both.

5. Compare how Annie feels about Ty to any relationships you have.
   P. 23.

6. How would you have reacted to Ty's admission, "I've seen the ghost," when they were sailing.
   Relate the ghost story before reading. Not a dry eye.
   PP. 25,26.

7. Do you think that Aunt Jill could do something to alleviate Annie's fears for her aunt's safety?

8. How does Alice make you feel about ghosts and ghost research?

   PP. 32-34.
9. Did you like Alice? Was she friendly or overpowering?

10. What did you think about Doc? Was he a suspicious character at first because of his reluctance to do something about "the neighbors"?

11. How does Ty prove to be a real friend as well as a "boy friend"?

Read Chap. 6 "The Neighbors".

12. Did your feelings about Ty change after the visit to his father at the hospital?
    PP. 54-59.

13. What did you think of how Annie reacted to meeting Ty's father? Will it help her to deal with her mother's problem?

14. So far, what do you think Annie's best characteristics are and why?

15. Same question for Ty.

16. If someone invited you on a ghost watch, what would you do?

17. Do you think that Annie made progress with her relationship with her parents as a result of the events in the book?
    PP. 100-102.

18. How did Annie and Ty show respect for each other as caring human beings throughout the book?
    PP.118, 19.

19. What kind of relationship would you like to have with a male friend?

20. Even though Annie's parents weren't traditional parents, did she have enough support from other adults. Explain.

21. What evidence did you find in the book to support the idea of respect in the various personal relationships occurring in the book? In other words, how did the characters in the book show respect or disrespect for each other?

Annie and J	Ty and Doc	Ty and "neighbors"
Annie and Dad	Alice and Annie	Alice and Doc
Ty and Annie	Alice and Ty	Annie and her Mom

Annie's mom and dad.

22. Can you see yourself doing the same things Annie did that got her involved in the dangerous plot she got herself into? What would you have done differently?

23. What was the most exciting part of the book for you?
    P. 82, 83-85.
    Chapter 13, The Storm

24. By the end of the book, were you a ghost-believer, a ghost-still-need-more-proof, or a ghost-non-believer? Explain.
    PP. 113-116.

PROCEDURES:

- Read a passage
- Jot some thoughts
- Mother's response
- Daughters response
- Give my own thoughts

Correct the Nassau/Suffolk mistake.

OVERVIEW

Why I wanted to write a book like the Madonna Ghost:

- I loved Nancy Drew.
- I taught FORENSIC SCIENCE and wrote CASE STUDIES.
- What I did with my case studies was to:
    1. present a case
    2. have the students form legal teams who isolate the clues, research how to analyze the clues,
    3. and present a court case designed to convict a suspect of their choosing.
- The rise of CSI and Law and Order was a real world link for my students.
- A desire to capture the experiences I had that I loved.

Why I wanted to create a heroine like Annie Tillery.

- I spent my life with teens, and I watched them grow into some relationships and out of others, struggling to find their way into an adult world, rejecting and/or accepting the rules and mores of society.
- I wanted to create a girl with goals who has an optimistic, up-beat approach to life, but who, unlike Nancy Drew, lives with some of the problems faced by teens today.
- Because so many of the teens I dealt with had substance abuse in their families.
- Because so many teens face choices in the world of substance abuse.
- Because so many teens grow up with at least one missing parent, for a variety of reasons.
- Because the family structure has changed.
- Because so many of us do not recognize opportunities or choices when they appear.
- To give an alternative to witches, warlocks, werewolves, gossipers, shoppers and other not-so-really real book characters. Even though those characters can be great fun.
- Filling a YA literary niche that is sparsely populated.