



Junior Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Karen's Witch by Ann M. Martin

1. Karen explains all the 'twos' she has in her life. What are her attitudes towards the different parts of her life?
2. Karen thinks her neighbor, Mrs. Porter, is a witch. What does she base her judgements on? Do you think Karen is being fair to her neighbor?
3. Karen is afraid that Midnight, Mrs. Porter's cat, is going to put a spell on her, but Kristy assures her it is no big deal. Do you think Kristy takes Karen seriously, or dismisses her fears? How do you think this makes Karen feel?
4. Karen wants to read stories about witches, and she acts brave in front of her brothers, but what happens when she is alone in her bedroom, in the dark? Does anything keep you up at night?
5. Karen and Hannie spy on Mrs. Porter and hear her say: "midnight, important meeting, and company coming". What does she think this means? Have you ever listened to someone and misheard what they said? What was the outcome?
6. Karen lies to her dad about spying. If she knows spying is bad, why does she continue to do it?
7. Karen tells Hannie not to tell her parents what they are up to. Do you think this was the right thing to do? Why or why not?
8. Karen thought she was going to save the neighborhood, but she got punished for her behavior. Do you think her punishment was fair?
9. What lessons do you think Karen learned by the end of the book?
10. Have you ever judged someone by how they look? What was the outcome?

The above questions were created by Clarington Library, Museums & Archives staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Ann M. Martin is the award-winning author behind landmark book series such as *The Baby-Sitters Club*, *Main Street*, and *Missy Piggle-Wiggle*. Ann grew up in Princeton, New Jersey. Her mother was a pre-school teacher, and her father was a professional cartoonist. Ann currently lives in upstate New York where she continues to write, and read, new books.

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