

Discussion questions

Can be done by Science, Social Studies or Language Arts teacher

Was Sara Louise like Caroline in ways that could only be attributed to being twins?

Based on what you've studied in science, discuss what you know about twins. How does this apply to what we know about Sara Louise and Caroline?

Do you think they have any inherited characteristics?

- Caroline could have inherited her singing voice from her father.
- Sara Louise could have inherited her intelligence from her mother.

How do you think the "nature" of Rass Island (people, peers, community, society) had an impact on Sara Louise and Caroline?

- Her family and community treated Sara Louise as the stronger twin. They knew that Caroline was the weaker twin and that feeling continued into their adulthood. Their treatment may have led to the fact that Caroline was used to being doted on by others while Sara Louise was more independent.

Do you think nature or nurture had more of an effect on Sara Louise and Caroline?

- Answers will vary.

Are Sara Louise and Caroline identical twins?

- It can be assumed that they didn't look alike. Caroline was blonde haired, blue eyed and fair complexioned while Sara Louise was brown headed, and brown eyed.

Do you (students) think that if Sara Louise and Caroline had been raised apart, would their characteristics be the same? Discuss.

- Student answers will differ.
- Idea- let students Think Pair Share a response to this. Allow teams to chart their answers then present to the class.

- Allow for discourse and dissention. Everyone will have his or her own opinion about this!

Was Caroline's musical giftedness nature or nurture?

Was Sara Louise's independence nature or nurture?

Now that you've studied World War II in history, how is the mood of the country during World War II reflected in the novel?

Let's review what you know about World War II. Let's discuss the different examples that we see in the novel.

- The radio announcement about Pearl Harbor
- The rationing that occurs with tinned milk.
- Sara Louise's mention of spies and counterspies.
- German saboteurs caught after they landed by submarine on Long Island and Florida.
- Weather was classified during the war.
- Young men going off to war.
- Fishermen killed in the Atlantic by U Boats.
- D-Day
- Hiroshima