

**Discussion Questions for
Classrooms & Homeschools**
One Degree of Freedom



1. Have you read any of the six novels Adriana reads? (See the reading List on page 11.)
How did that help you follow the story?

2. What does Adriana learn from each heroine of the novels she reads?
 - Lucy Peverzie
 - Jo March
 - Heidi
 - Sara Crewe
 - Dorothy Gale
 - Anne Shirley

3. What circumstances in Adriana's life parallel those in her novels?
 - The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*
 - Little Women*
 - Heidi*
 - A Little Princess*
 - The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*
 - Anne of Green Gables*

4. Adriana says her uncle frequently quotes George Orwell's *Animal Farm* by saying, "And some are more equal than others." What do you think this means?
5. Why do you think the authorities arrest Mihai?
6. Name some of the freedoms that people who lived during that time and place did not have. Which freedom do you think would have been the hardest for you to lose?
7. Adriana was tired of bearing secrets. What are some of the secrets she had to keep and why did she have to keep them?
8. Discuss the following policies and how they affect regular citizens:
 - Systematization
 - Collectivization
 - Industrialization
 - Rational Eating Plan to Reduce Obesity
 - Resettlement
 - Reeducation
 - Censorship
 - Austerity measures
 - Propaganda
 - Curfew
9. Discuss the importance of some of the following events and people from history.
 - Sputnik, Laika, and the Space Race
 - The Securitate
 - The gulags
 - The Brasov Rebellion
 - The Young Pioneers
 - Nicolae & Elena Ceaușescu
10. When Adriana looks for a book to read in the secret room, she comes across one called *1984*. She dismisses it since that was four years ago and nothing interesting happened that year. Do you know what this book is about? Why do you think the author included this?