

Book Club Guide

Gutsy Girls: Strong Christian Women Who Impacted the World Fanny Crosby

Guiding Questions for Book Club Discussion

- Although *Gutsy Girls* is an illustrated picture book, all of the text and illustrations are based on true events (this includes the illustration of Fanny on the sled!). What details from Fanny Crosby's life stand out to you? What do you still wonder about?
- In your own words, define the word disability. List as many types of disabilities as you can. Do you know anyone who has a disability? Share about that person and how life might be different for them. Talk about any challenges a person with a disability may encounter. Share about the many [famous people with disabilities](#).
- Fanny left home at age fifteen, made her way around New York alone, and spoke in front of large groups frequently. She didn't do these things because she was strong. Fanny did them because she found strength through God. Discuss a time you were faced with something big or scary and you had to rely on God for your strength. What does "relying on God" look like to you?
- Read the **Historical Note** in the back of the book and discuss. Do you find any of the additional details about Fanny's life surprising? Discuss.
- Pop quiz for the adults: Turn to the page in *Gutsy Girls*, which has the illustrations of all the former Presidents. Ask the adults if they can share any facts about the men surrounding Fanny.

Additional *Gutsy Girls* Activities

- **Listen to Hymns.** Download the Spotify app (it's free!) and listen to the author, Amy L. Sullivan's [Fanny Crosby Playlist](#).
- **Study Braille.** Although Fanny Crosby did not use Braille to read, Braille is one way people who are blind access many resources. Visit [National Braille Press](#) to learn about the many books, games, and resources available in Braille. Download a visual representation of the Alphabet Card (the dots on the card will not be raised) for free or order a free embossed Braille Alphabet Card to be mailed to your young reader (one per customer). Multiple copies can also be ordered for a fee.
- **Serve Others.** Although Fanny Crosby was known by most for the hymns she wrote, Fanny wanted to be known for loving God and serving others. She chose to live in apartments beside people many who society wanted to ignore. She counseled prisoners. She made pills for the sick, and she even knitted mittens for soldiers. After your book chat group discusses the Fanny's story, plan an activity to go out and serve others either in your community or

serve others from your kitchen table. Easy examples include the following: Create a banner or posters for someone who needs encouragement, bake your favorite dessert and take it to the local police or fire department, ask participants to bring used clothes or books and deliver them to a local shelter, tour a nonprofit in your community, ask someone who is already serving others to come to your group and share about their mission, pack food at a local food bank.

- **Talk with the Author.** Create a list of questions for the author, Amy L. Sullivan and set-up a time to chat via Skype. For more information contact Amy at AmyLSullivan12@gmail.com.
- **Play Fanny's music.** Are there members of your book club with musical abilities? Before book club meets ask them to look up the music from one of Fanny's songs to practice and share with the group. Here's a link to one of her most well-known songs, "[Blessed Assurance.](#)"
- **Eat Watermelon.** Fanny Crosby had a mischievous side to her, and while attending school she crept into the school's garden and stole a watermelon to share with the other students. Grab a watermelon and slice it up for your guests or make another watermelon themed treat.
- **Become a Copy Cat.** Pick your favorite illustration from the book and show off your drawing skills by copying it.