

Reading Guide

One Day at a Time and Other Stories

Secondary

- 1** How does reading a short story compare to reading a full-length novel? Can it have the same lasting impact? Why or why not?
- 2** Which characters did you find relatable? If none, how would you describe a relatable character?
- 3** Did any of the conflicts in the story seem particularly plausible? Have you experienced anything similar? If not, what would be an interesting conflict to center a story on?
- 4** Did any of the settings appear vivid to you? Does the setting act more like another character in the story or just a back drop? Describe a setting, real or imaginary, you might like to visit.
- 5** Some endings leave the reader able to carry on the story in their own minds. Was there any story you would like to see continue?

Adult/Book Clubs

- 1** Which story sticks with you? What part of it resonated or clashed with you personally?
- 2** Generally there is a resolution to each story, but not always a “happy ending.” Do the stories still feel complete? Is there a story you wish had ended differently? How might you have ended it?
- 3** Is there a character in the story that you recognize? Anyone seem so familiar you could see his or her face? Who and what is the personal connection?
- 4** Did any of the stories help you see a new perspective? Whose?
- 5** What setting grabbed your attention? Was that because it was familiar or so different from familiar settings? Would you like to visit that place?

Paperback/Journal Reflections

- 1** Which story(ies) did I react to emotionally? Why? What feelings did they stir up? Why might that be?

2 Did I wish for a different ending to any of the stories? Why that one? How would I have ended it? Why does it need a different ending?

3 What characters did I admire or feel attracted to? Do I wish there were more stories with these characters? What is the attraction? Do I have people in my life that fill these roles for me or am I missing these kinds of relationships?

4 What characters made me angry or simply ticked me off? Why? Do they remind me of anyone in particular? How do I deal with this kind of person in real life? If I were writing the story, what would happen to these characters?

5 Were there any details that jumped out at me? Settings? Scents, tactile experiences, images, sounds? Do I naturally resonate with these things or are they missing pieces in my life that I long to fill, perhaps with the time and peace of mind to notice them in the real world.