

DEAR CANADA

DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Trail of Broken Dreams **The Gold Rush Diary of Harriet Palmer** By Barbara Howarth-Attard

1. In what ways are the gold seekers victims of a sickness?
2. Why are women not allowed on the journey? Why are the men so unprepared for the journey?
3. Why is Harry so afraid of meeting aboriginal people?
4. As the journey progresses, in what way is Harriet turning into “Harry”? In what ways does she remain the girl she was?
5. How does Talbot’s behaviour toward Harriet change after he discovers she’s a girl?
6. What is Talbot’s dilemma? Why doesn’t he proceed to the gold fields?
7. Could it be true that camels were brought to the Cariboo? How might you find out?
8. On the one hand, Harriet knows she needs to look for her father, on the other, she seems reluctant to continue her search. Why?