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# Discussion Questions:
# *Nory Ryan's Song*
## by Patricia Reilly Giff

1. How do you feel about Maggie leaving the family to go to America? Is that the right thing to do? Is family important to the Ryan's? How do you know? Maggie says to Nory, "You are the heart of the family with your songs." What is Maggie saying about Nory? How does Nory remain the "heart of the family?"

2. How does the potato famine affect Nory's family? Do you think they will ever be reunited?

3. Describe Anna. What kind of a person is she? Why is she willing to give her coin to Nory? Why is Nory unwilling to leave her? What does Anna mean when she says, "I will give you the coin, but you will pay for it in another way?" Does Nory ever pay Anna back? How?

4. What skills will Nory bring with her to America? Is that possibly a gift from Anna to Nory? Why does Anna insist that Nory's place is in America?

5. Is music important to Nory? How? Why do you think the book is called Nory Ryan's Song?

6. How did you feel when the package Nory waited so long to get is stolen from her? Have you ever lost something that was very important to you? How did you feels? Why is the package so important to Nory?

7. To what lengths does Nory go to feed her family? What does this tell you about what kind of girl Nory is?

8. What is Nory's most courageous moment? Why? Is Anna courageous? What does Nory learn from Anna about courage?

9. Do you have hope for Nory's future? Why?

If you liked Nory Ryan's Song, try reading the sequel to this story, Maggie's Door.