



When Molly Was a Harvey Girl
By Frances M. Wood

- When Molly's father dies, her sister, Colleen says, "I'm so happy for poor Papa." Why does she say this?
- Molly initially does not want to go to Raton, New Mexico, and work as a Harvey Girl, prompting Colleen to lose her temper, exclaiming, "We don't have a world of choices." What does Colleen mean by this? Support your thoughts with other specific events or situations that occur in the book.
- Molly learns to speak to customers and other Harvey Girls in "counter code," (statements and questions made up of 2 or 3 words). Write a brief dialogue between one of the regular restaurant customers and Molly. Remember that Molly has to speak in code, and is often interrupted to fill the urn!
- Molly sends her friend Jonathan a wanted poster for Genius Jim, a train robber who is mentioned throughout the book and whose real identity becomes clear only at the end of the story. Make your own version of this poster.
- Josiah is almost fired after being blamed for a collision with Sissy, resulting in broken plates and ruined food. Molly reveals the truth about the accident, upsetting Colleen and the other girls. If you were Molly, would you have spoken up? Why or why not?
- Molly loves ordering Colleen around after Miss Lambert assigns her the task of training her older sister how to work the night counter. What do you think Molly and Colleen learn about each other from this experience?
- Harvey Girls have to be at least 18 years old, and Molly can no longer work at the restaurant after her true age is revealed. Do you think it was OK for Colleen to lie about Molly's age so they can both work? Why or why not?