

Study Guide for Anzia Yeziarska's Bread Givers: Course Hero Study Guides

Anzia Yeziarska's *Bread Givers* is a powerful and moving novel that tells the story of a young Jewish immigrant woman's struggle to find her place in early 20th century New York City. The novel is set in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, a crowded and impoverished neighborhood that was home to a large population of Jewish immigrants. Yeziarska's novel vividly depicts the harsh conditions that these immigrants faced, as well as their resilience and determination to succeed.

Bread Givers is a complex and multi-layered novel that explores a wide range of themes, including immigration, poverty, labor, feminism, and socialism. Yeziarska's writing is both lyrical and realistic, and her characters are unforgettable. *Bread Givers* is a classic of American literature, and it continues to be read and studied by students and scholars today.

- **Sara Smolinsky:** The protagonist of *Bread Givers*, Sara is a young Jewish immigrant woman who comes to New York City in search of a better life. She is intelligent, ambitious, and determined, but she also faces many challenges in her new country.
- **Reb Smolinsky:** Sara's father, Reb Smolinsky is a devout and traditional Jewish man. He is a hard worker, but he is also very poor. He loves his daughter very much, but he does not always understand her ambitions.
- **Masha Smolinsky:** Sara's mother, Masha is a kind and loving woman. She is also a very religious woman, and she believes that Sara's

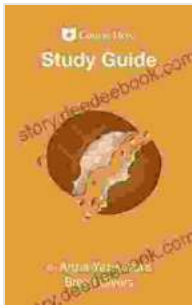
ambitions are sinful.

- **Feivel Shprintzer:** Sara's younger brother, Feivel is a bright and talented boy. He is also very ambitious, but he lacks Sara's determination.
- **Morris Bober:** A young Jewish man who is in love with Sara. Morris is a socialist, and he believes that the only way to improve the lives of workers is through collective action.
- **Adele Lindner:** A wealthy and educated woman who becomes Sara's friend and mentor. Adele is a feminist, and she encourages Sara to pursue her dreams.
- **Immigration:** Bread Givers is a novel about the experiences of Jewish immigrants in early 20th century New York City. Yeziarska vividly depicts the challenges that these immigrants faced, as well as their resilience and determination to succeed.
- **Poverty:** Bread Givers is also a novel about poverty. The Smolinsky family is very poor, and they struggle to make ends meet. Yeziarska's novel shows the devastating effects that poverty can have on individuals and families.
- **Labor:** Bread Givers is a novel about labor. The Smolinsky family works in a sweatshop, and they are subjected to harsh and dangerous conditions. Yeziarska's novel shows the exploitation of workers in the early 20th century, and she calls for a more just and equitable society.
- **Feminism:** Bread Givers is a feminist novel. Sara Smolinsky is a strong and independent woman who defies the traditional gender roles

of her time. She is determined to pursue her own dreams, even if it means going against the wishes of her family.

- **Socialism:** Bread Givers is a socialist novel. Morris Bober is a socialist, and he believes that the only way to improve the lives of workers is through collective action. Yeziarska's novel shows the importance of solidarity and cooperation in the fight for a more just and equitable society.

Yeziarska uses a variety of literary devices in Bread Givers, including:



Study Guide for Anzia Yeziarska's Bread Givers

(Course Hero Study Guides) by Julius St. Clair

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1372 KB

Print length : 32 pages

Lending : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported



- **Imagery:** Yeziarska uses vivid and evocative imagery to create a vivid and memorable portrait of the Lower East Side of Manhattan. She uses images of poverty, overcrowding, and labor exploitation to convey the harsh conditions that Jewish immigrants faced in the early 20th century.
- **Symbolism:** Yeziarska also uses symbolism to convey her themes. For example, the bread that Sara's family bakes represents the hard work and sacrifice that is necessary to survive in America.

- **Irony:** Yeziarska also uses irony to highlight the contradictions and injustices of American society. For example, the fact that Sara's family is poor despite working hard shows the failure of the American dream.

Bread Givers is a novel that is deeply rooted in the history and social context of its time. The novel is set in the Lower East Side of Manhattan in the early 20th century, a neighborhood that was home to a large population of Jewish immigrants. These immigrants faced a variety of challenges, including poverty, discrimination, and labor exploitation.

The early 20th century was a time of great social and political change in America. The Industrial Revolution had led to the rise of large cities and the growth of a new working class. This new working class faced a variety of challenges, including low wages, long hours, and dangerous working conditions.

In response to these challenges, a labor movement arose in America. The labor movement fought for better wages, shorter hours, and safer working conditions. The labor movement also played a key role in the fight for social justice and equality.

Bread Givers is a novel that captures the spirit of the early 20th century labor movement. Yeziarska's novel shows the struggles and sacrifices that workers made in order to fight for a more just and equitable society.

1. What are the main challenges that Sara Smolinsky faces in her new country?
2. How does Sara's family's poverty affect her life?
3. What is the significance of the bread that Sara's family bakes?

4. What is Morris Bober's role in the novel?
5. How does Yeziarska use imagery to convey the harsh conditions that Jewish immigrants faced in the early 20th century?
6. How does Yeziarska use irony to highlight the contradictions and injustices of American society?
7. What is the significance of the labor movement in the novel?
8. How does Bread Givers capture the spirit of the early 20th century?

Bread Givers is a powerful and moving novel that tells the story of a young Jewish immigrant woman's struggle to find her place in early 20th century New York City. The novel is a vivid and memorable portrait of the Lower East Side of Manhattan, and it captures the spirit of the early 20th century labor movement. Bread Givers is a classic of American literature, and it continues to be read and studied by students and scholars today.



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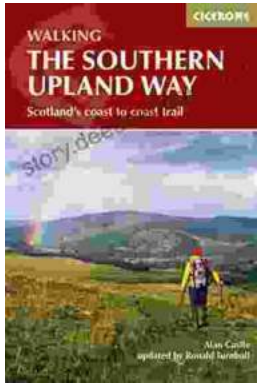
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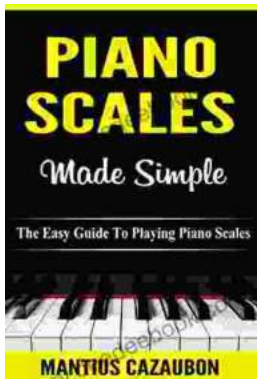
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