

FOOTFALLS TO THE ALAMO

Discussion Questions

1. Re-read the prologue beginning on page vii. What purpose does it serve? What insights are gained by reading this information?
2. Look closely at the map preceding Part I. What does it show? What do you notice about it? What questions might it conjure up for a reader just starting the story?
3. What clue does María Andrea's birth at Mission San Juan Bautista del Río Grande in 1803 give you about her family?
4. What role did Ábu play in the Castañon family's life?
5. As the family moved about from settlement to settlement, what struck you as particularly noteworthy or interesting?
6. María Andrea longed to know what was going on around her, how things worked. What were some of the ways she was able to gather information?
7. How did the city of San Antonio seem to María Andrea and family upon their arrival?
8. Of all the stops made by the Castañon family, in what ways did San Antonio turn out to be the one that shaped María Andrea the most?
9. María Andrea soon marries for a second time and becomes Señora Candelaria. What kind of a woman was she and how can you tell?
10. How might the interview style of Footfalls to the Alamo contribute to a reader's understanding of this history? Why do you suppose the author chose to use that technique?
11. Was there a part of this story that kept you reading and you couldn't put the book down? If so, which part?

12. Who was your favorite character? Explain why.

13. Which one of these quotes best captures your thoughts on Señora's decision to enter the Alamo several times between February 23 and the final battle on March 6, 1836? Would you have done the same if Sam Houston had asked you?

“It's your reaction to adversity, not adversity itself that determines how your life's story will develop.”

~Dieter F. Uchtdorf

“No matter how bleak or menacing a situation may appear, it does not entirely own us. It can't take away our freedom to respond, our power to take action.”

~Ryder Carroll

14. Are there aspects of this book that might be considered timeless or universal when it comes to familial or societal connections?

15. Have you ever visited the Alamo in San Antonio? If yes, what was your impression of it and has your impression changed after reading this book?