

Blue Willow
by Doris Gates

Characters:

Janey Larkin – age ten, the main character

Mom/Mrs. Larkin – Janey's stepmother

Dad/Mr. Larkin – Janey's father

Lupe Romero – Janey's friend

Bounce Reyburn – foreman of the Anderson ranch

Nils Anderson – landowner

Miss Peterson – teacher at the camp school

Dr. Peirce – a doctor in town

What is Janey's most prized possession? **a blue willow plate**

What does the plate show? **a Chinese garden scene with birds, willow trees, an arched bridge and a house**

Who owned the plate before it came to Janey? **her mother; before that, Janey's great-great-grandmother owned it**

What does Janey want most in the world? **to live in one place for a long time and go to a regular school**

Where does Janey's family live now? **in a shack on Anderson's ranch, in California**

What kind of work is Dad doing? **he works in the cotton fields**

Where do the Romeros take Janey? **to the county fair in Fresno**

What does Janey find most interesting at the fair? **the library booth, filled with new books**

What does Lupe give to Janey at the fair? **the brass ring from the merry-go-round**

What does Janey buy at the fair with her nickel? **a pack of gum to share with the Romeros**

What does Bounce want from the Larkins? **\$5 per month rent for the shack**

What does Dad insist that Bounce give him in return? **a signed receipt for the money**

What does Janey find when she wanders along the river? **Mr. Anderson's house and barn**

Who accuses Janey of being a thief? **Bounce**

What does Mr. Anderson let Janey take home? **a dozen eggs**

Where does Janey meet Miss Peterson? **at the camp school**

Why doesn't Lupe go to the camp school? **she has lived in the area long enough to attend the regular school**

What does Janey catch on the first day of school? **a horned toad**

What kind of contest does Mr. Larkin enter? **a cotton picking contest**

What did Mr. Larkin win? **second place, with a \$75 prize**

What does Bounce hunt? **ducks**

How does Janey save the ducks? **she scares them off the pond, then steps in front of Bounce's gun**

What does Janey offer Dr. Peirce as payment? **the willow plate**

Why don't the Larkins have enough money for rent? **there is no work for Dad in the winter**

What does Bounce take as a rent payment? **the willow plate**

What will Bounce do with the willow plate? **he plans to trade it back to the Larkins in exchange for the cash receipts**

Who comes to visit the Larkins at Christmas time? **Miss Peterson**

Why does Janey go to Mr. Anderson's house on the day before leaving? **she wants to see the willow plate one last time**

Why does Mr. Anderson fire Bounce? **because Bounce is taking the Larkins' money for himself, and pretending that Mr. Anderson is charging rent for the shack**

What will Dad earn at his new job? **\$75 per month plus all the eggs and milk his family wants**

Where is Lupe's family moving? **to town, to start an enchilada restaurant**

What does Miss Peterson choose Janey to do? **be a May Day dancer**

What does Janey find at the new house when she returns from the May Day celebration? **new furniture, and the willow plate displayed above the fireplace**

What kind of illness does Mom get?

- A) heart attack
- B) cancer
- C) **pneumonia**
- D) food poisoning

What does Janey always look for in the fall?

- A) a new dress for school
- B) **the return of the wild ducks**
- C) fall flowers
- D) frost on the grass

Where did Janey and her family live when she was very small?

- A) a farm in Canada
- B) **a ranch in Texas**
- C) a boarding house in Louisiana
- D) an apartment in St. Louis, Missouri

Why did they have to leave Texas?

- A) their ranch was flooded
- B) they lost everything in a fire
- C) their house was destroyed by a tornado
- D) **there was a severe drought and dust storms**

Where do Janey, Mom and Dad go on a day that Dad is off from work?

- A) **to the river to fish for catfish**
- B) to buy a new car in the city
- C) swimming in the ocean
- D) to visit Janey's mother's grave

What do Dad and Mom buy with the prize money?

- A) a winter coat for Janey
- B) tires for the car
- C) lunch at a restaurant
- D) **all of the above**

What does Mr. Anderson offer to Dad?

- A) a herd of cattle
- B) a fishing boat
- C) the job of truck driver
- D) **the job of ranch foreman**

What does Manuel Romero build for the Larkin family?

- A) a Chinese house
- B) a barn
- C) **an adobe house**
- D) a stone house