

## Discussion Guide Looking for Garibaldi

John and Nancy have different reasons for starting a new book. What are they and do each of them accomplish what they intend?

What are some of the ways John connects Garibaldi's life with his own?

On their arrival in Buenos Aires, the Petralias are disenchanted with the apartment they've rented. What do you think of how they handled the situation? How would you have handled the same one?

What did you learn about American history from the book?

How do you think the Civil War would have been different if Garibaldi headed the Union army?

What Italian traditions and superstitions are mentioned in the book? Does your family have similar traditions or beliefs?

Serendipity plays a major role in the book. What are some of the situations where it happens and how do John and Nancy react?

How would you describe the Petralias' style of travel?

Do you feel you know something about Garibaldi the man? How would you describe him? Do you think he deserves all his honorific titles?

Both authors weave experiences from their own childhoods into the narrative. Do you feel this adds or detracts from the story?

As travelers, John and Nancy are looking for ways to engage with the people and culture. Name some examples of how they do so. Are there any examples from your own travels?

What were some of the moments you found humorous, embarrassing, or touching?

How do you feel the authors did in balancing some Garibaldi history with their own experiences as they traveled?

What stories did you find particularly compelling or interesting?

Garibaldi's life was full of tragedy. Can you name some off them?

What are some of the differences between the Italian/Argentinian way of life and our own.?

Nancy says of Italy , "I treasure this country so much because love and friendship are the center of our life here." How does this observation manifest in the book?

What did you enjoy most about the book? Was there something you did not?

How do you define a "hero?"