National CASA Association Book Club

Three Little Words
By Ashley Rhodes-Courter

The following questions are provided for use in your own CASA/GAL book club to spark discussion. Suggestions for future books to read and other ideas are greatly appreciated and can be emailed to staff@CASAforChildren.org.

Discussion Questions:

- One of Ashley’s biggest worries early on is being separated from her brother. Sibling relationships are a common thread in many foster care stories, whether they are separated or kept together. Have you seen that type of relationship, where an older sibling feels like they have to be responsible for the younger one? What do you think people can do to support sibling groups?

- Some of the foster homes that Ashley stayed in were fine, but some were everything from inappropriate to actually abusive. Foster parent screening and training is constantly changing across the country to try to prevent situations like the ones Ashley found herself in. Have you seen or heard of any specific guidelines or reforms that you hope more communities will adopt?

- Ashley has a hard time at first adjusting to the Courter household, partially because their customs and diet are unlike anything she’s used to, partially because she’s still unsure about being adopted. What do you think are some good ways for foster and adoptive parents to help kids feel comfortable in a new place?

- Did you give a little cheer when Ashley met Mary Miller, her GAL? Because we’re seeing only Ashley's point-of-view, we don't get a lot of details about what Mary is doing behind the scenes to try to get permanency for Ashley. Do you think that this book has inspired other people to be like Mary and join a CASA or GAL program? Did it inspire you?

Further Resources:

- Ashley’s blog post for National CASA: http://blog.casaforchildren.org/blog/story/ashley-rhodescourter-story/
- Ashley’s website: http://www.rhodes-courter.com/