

**Reader Questions for *Dancing with My Daughter: Poems of Love, Wisdom & Dreams*,
by Jayne Jaudon Ferrer**

About This Book

Dancing with My Daughter is a collection of poems about the mother/daughter relationship. Divided into five sections—Waltz, Jitterbug, Tango, Samba, Freestyle—that correlate to the stages of a daughter’s development, the poems range in tone from tender to tempestuous. From celebrating all that is pink and frilly to bemoaning bizarre-colored hair and attitudes du jour, this is a book that will resonate with moms of all ages. Whether you’ve lived through it all or are just learning the ropes, you’ll find plenty to ponder in these pages.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the most significant differences between mothering girls and boys?
2. What terrified you most as a new mother? What gave you the most satisfaction?
3. What special memory do you have of a time spent with your own mother?
4. Is it important for a mother to be brave? What other behaviors do you consider essential for a mother to teach her daughter?
5. Are you and your daughter alike or polar opposites? Which situation is easier to deal with?
6. In “Mother Magic” and “Turnaround,” the mother manages to solve an unpleasant situation. Do you have a tried and true technique to solve temper tantrums and rotten days?
7. Would you rather be raising a daughter now or in another period of time? Why?
8. How do you handle “role models gone wrong,” such as child stars whose bad decisions and bad behavior turn them into media darlings?
9. Have you shared—or will you share--your own mistakes and errors in judgment with your daughter, or do you feel that information is private?
10. “The Sins of the Mother” is about a mother introducing her daughter to the many redeeming powers of chocolate. What other “secrets to happiness” will you share with your daughter?
11. Is prom a nightmare for all but the rich and pretty, or a memory every girl should have?
12. In “Table Talk,” it’s obvious this mother and daughter are dealing with some issues. How accommodating should you be when one family member’s tastes/preferences/behaviors/demands are out of line with everyone else’s? What about when one accommodating one child’s talent or passion means shortchanging another?
13. Is your mother’s relationship with your daughter one you appreciate or resent?
14. Knowing how tough life can be even on a *good* day, if your daughter chose an especially difficult path (to infiltrate an all-male organization, to announce she’s a lesbian, to drop out of school and become an actress, etc.), would you give her your unquestioning support or try to talk her out of it?
15. What piece of wisdom would you most like to pass on to your daughter? What’s the most important thing you learned from *your* mother?