



etruscan press

# All the Difference

## By Patricia Horvath

A Study Guide for Students

### Synopsis

*All the Difference* journeys through the life of Patricia Horvath as she grows up with the burden of scoliosis. This raw memoir brings about many topics, ranging from pain and discouragement, to love and a determinedness.

### Why Include This Book in the Classroom?

*All the Difference* is a must-have in classrooms because Patricia's story is a remarkable lesson in staying hopeful, living life, and keeping a burning desire to make it through any situation no matter what life hands you. This memoir is perfect for students who are struggling or who simply have the desire to learn about the hardships that others must go through.

### Author Bio

Patricia Horvath's stories and essays have been published widely in literary journals including *The Massachusetts Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *The Los Angeles Review*, and *Confrontation*. She is the recipient of New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships in fiction and literary nonfiction and of *Bellevue Literary Review's* Goldenberg Prize in Fiction for a story that was accorded a Pushcart Prize Special Mention. She lives in New York City.

### Study Questions

#### Section 1

1. Patricia chooses to begin her memoir with the ending of her story. Do you think this is an effective way for the memoir to grab the reader's attention?
2. What is your first impression of Patricia, as she explains her experience with the diagnosis?

Writing Prompt: Think of a similar book or piece of writing that *All the Difference* reminds you of. How do they compare? Differ?

#### Section 2

1. As a young girl, Patricia notices she's physically different than the other children at school, and they bully her for it. How does this type of treatment negatively affect a young person in the long run?

2. The brace becomes a pivotal symbol in Patricia's life. Describe its impact.

#### Section 3

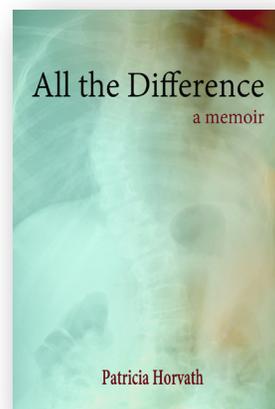
1. Patricia finally gets the chance to feel like a young teenage girl should when she meets Jimmy. What does his role in her life become and why is he so important?

2. Do you think the title *All the Difference* suits this memoir well? Why or why not?

#### Section 4

1. Patricia mentions Thomas Bulfinch's *Mythology*. What do you think her purpose is for this? What did this book mean to her?

Writing Prompt: Explain how Patricia's attitude throughout the memoir affected the outcome of her story.



etruscan press

84 West South Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766

P: 570.480.4546

www.etruscanpress.org  
books@etruscanpress.org