

## BESSIE READER'S GUIDE

1. Why do you think Bessie was so insecure, always seeking approval and acceptance?
2. How do you think Bessie's family life affected who she became?
3. What was the impact of the community of Sholem Aleichem on forming Bessie's character?
4. What did the role of music play in Bessie's life? What did Bessie love so much about performing?
5. What role did Dorothy LaFollette play in Bessie's life?
6. What do you think was the impact of attending the High School of Music & Art on Bessie's growth and development?
7. How do you think the war itself impacted Bessie's college life?
8. Do you think Bessie would have competed in Miss America had there not been a \$5,000 scholarship?
9. What friendships do you think had the strongest impact on Bessie?
10. What role did Sylvia play in Bessie's life?
11. Talk about the relationship Bess had with Lenora Slaughter.
12. How do you think a Jewish girl like Bess Myerson overcame the bigotry of her time to rise above it and be held in such esteem?
13. Why do you think it was hard for Bess to accept her own beauty?
14. Do you think accomplished and beautiful women today have difficulty being seen for, and given credit for, their accomplishments?