

*The Pink Dress, A Memoir of a Reluctant Beauty Queen* (2024)

Jane Little Botkin, Author

Suggested Study Guide

1. Author Jane Little Botkin, as a western history biographer, embeds her own character within the historic American counterculture era of the late 1960s and 1970s. How does this context enhance the narrative? If the story were set today, how might the narrative be different?
2. *The Pink Dress* is on the reading list for several university women's studies discussions. Why do you think this is? In other words, what makes this narrative unique to today's students of women's history?
3. In the frontier, Americans traveled west in search of new opportunities, do-overs as the author calls them. How does Botkin use this theme within the narrative?
4. Since *The Pink Dress* is also about the nexus of the famous beauty pageant duo Richard Guy and Rex Holt, (known as GuyRex), what changes do the pair bring to the world stage that enhance motifs of western do-overs and cowboy appeal and perseverance?
5. The author writes, "Reality eventually smacks the foolish in the face" and refers to Oz as a tangible goal. What fine details does the author craft within the narrative that portray the movie allusion from *The Wizard of Oz* both within and at the conclusion of the memoir?

