

PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: March
Theme: Women's History

Book Title: Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor
The Woman Who Loved Reptiles
By Patricia Valdez

Grade Level: K / 1st

Discussion Questions:

- Why does the author call her Joan Procter, The Dragon Doctor?
- As a child, Joan liked to have tea parties with her special friends. Were her tea parties a little different than you expected? What do you think of the tea party guests?
- The author writes "While other girls played with dolls, Joan preferred the company of reptiles". What do you think about this statement? Do all girls or only girls like to play with dolls? Were you surprised that Joan liked to play with reptiles? Why or why not?
- Describe some of the ways Joan acted as a scientist when she was younger. Do you ever go on exploring adventures or perform scientific experiments?
- Joan's visits to the Natural History Museum as a young person helped her to fulfill her dream of working with and educating people about reptiles. Is there something that you are inspired to learn more about? How might you work toward fulfilling your dream(s)?
- People were amazed at the interaction that Joan had with the reptiles, specifically the Komodo dragons. Many wondered how a woman could run the reptile house; was she scared, etc. but Joan wished they asked more about the animals. Why do you think this mattered so much to her?
- In what ways did Joan show kindness to the animals that she worked with? How do you think this helped her in her life? In what ways do you show kindness in your life?
- How would you describe Joan? What adjectives would you use?