

At the end of the novel, Katya is a peasant. For example, her life falls into the simple pattern the peasants had always lived (pg. 278). Having lived through the Revolution and seeing much poverty, she knows much more about the world. For example, on page 281, Misha is tortured with telling her long ago that she was a spoiled child. That is how dramatic her change was. She hoes and plants, all for eating or using. She has no plans for the future and lives a simple life. For example, her only troubles were the ones of peasants, like grasshoppers eating the wheat field (pg. 278). Her life is nothing like it used to be, frolicing and just doing things for fun with the Imperial family. Katya, at the end of her change, is hardworking and wants equal rights for everyone. For example, she builds her own house for herself and Mama to live in (pg. 273). Instead of Mama taking care of Katya, Katya is the one doing most of the work and taking care of Mama. For example, Mama says that the cottage is a miracle and it makes her the happiest she has been since Siberia (pg. 272-273). Katya's change is dramatic and really shapes the whole plot.

I think that Katya's change is the most important part of the book. I think that Gloria Whelan wrote this book to write about a young aristocrat in Russia who goes