

Book Club Discussion Guide for *The Sing*

1. The plot of *The Sing* has to do with a black choir trying to get into an all-white singing convention, but what, in your opinion, is the book really about?
2. Who is the hero of the story? Why do you say that?
3. Which of the characters do you admire the most?
4. Each of the major characters—Stumpy Fowler, A.Y. Pollard, Claymore Thomas, and Besie Williams— has his or her own motives that guide their reaction to the events in the story? What are the motives for each of the characters and do you consider the motives admirable? Which of the motives do you sympathize with?
5. Which of these motives have to do with what we came to call integration? If not with that, what do the characters' motives have to do with?
6. *The Sing* is set in 1956? Is it purely a period piece, or are there parts of it relevant to today?
7. Do you think that River Falls was significantly different in 1957, the year after the book ends, than it was in 1956? What do you think happened in that town after the book ends?
8. If you had written *The Sing*, would you have given it a different ending?
9. Often people talk about life in the 1950s being simpler. Based on the time as it was depicted in the book, would you agree with that?
10. Is there anything you can take from the book that would be personally useful?

If you have questions regarding *The Sing*, you can contact Chuck Holmes at

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