



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following guide is intended to help your reading group find new points of discussion and enrich your conversation about *Finding Franklin*.

Spoiler Alert: Please note that the discussion guide below contains spoilers to the book.

1. “It was a place where sidewalk benches were for *sittin’ a spell*, and sweet tea was for *sippin’*. Porch sitting was a religion, and waving at neighbors was Communion. Life in Franklin was as slow and smooth as sweet sorghum...” (Chapter 1) Franklin, Tennessee is definitely a character in this book. In what ways does the small town setting shape the plot? How would this novel be different if it took place somewhere else?
2. *Finding Franklin* centers around life in the South. Do you think the author accurately portrayed this region of the United States? Why or why not? What comes to mind when you think of the American South?
3. Faith is a recurring topic of conversation between Charlotte and Colin. How is faith a prevalent theme in the book? What role does faith play in your life?
4. Charlotte had given up on God and believed He had nothing good to offer her. What would you tell someone who is struggling to believe that God is truly benevolent, especially considering all the hardships in the world?
5. What does Franklin symbolize for Charlotte? Do you think there’s an ultimate place where people belong? How would you know when you got there?
6. Family is an important part of this book and a major void for Charlotte. What does family mean to you? What constitutes a family?

7. Anita was a complicated character in this novel. Why do you think she ultimately rejected Charlotte as her daughter? If she hadn't, how might that have changed the ending?
8. Charlotte was haunted by her past. In what ways can one's past affect his or her present? How much do you think childhood wounds make us who we are today?
9. *Finding Franklin* explores the relationship between mother and daughter: "Motherhood isn't about giving life; it's about being there as the life unfolds." (Chapter 38) How else would you describe a mother's role?
10. What role do you see Elsie playing in Charlotte's life after the novel ends?