

Discussion Questions



The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah

1. What do you know about the Dust Bowls in the 30s?
2. How does this story help you understand life during that time?
3. What parallels do you find between the challenges in the book and the challenges faced today?
4. How do the decisions made by Elsa and the other characters in this story affect you?
5. Which decisions do you most relate to?
6. How were Elsa and the other families searching for refuge “othered” in their new home? How are people still “othered” today?
7. California was advertised as the “Land of Milk and Honey.” Have you heard that expression before? In what context?
8. What was your reaction to how the PTA ladies treated Elsa when she attended one of their meetings?
9. Elsa repeats her grandfather’s words to her throughout this story: “Be brave.” How does she use this mantra to grow through this journey?
10. Why are people reluctant to fight for better wages and conditions? Why are people willing to risk everything to improve these things?
11. What do you think about how the story ends, both at the Welty Farm and later?