



An Open Book

## Discussion Guide for *Destined for You*

1. In the beginning of the book, Mr. Womack deals out a punishment to his son for carving on a desk, but also makes sure to let the boy know that he is loved. Even when JT tells him he hates him, Mr. Womack states that that is the boy's choice. What do you think of his parenting style? What do you think this kind of parenting teaches Glorianna and JT about God? How do you think it affects Glorianna when she finds herself being angry at God later?
2. What do you think of Glorianna trying not to break down in front of JT? Do you think it would be better for him to see his sister grieving and know it's okay to be sad, or do you think it's better for her to stay strong for him? How do the different characters deal with their grief?
3. Which character did you relate to the most? Why? Did your impression of them change over the course of the story?
4. Forgiveness is a strong theme in this story. JT is angry at his father, old Mr. Carson is angry at his son, Theodore Sedgwick is angry about his friend's imprisonment and subsequent death, and Glorianna is angry at God. How do you see the characters working through (or not working through) that anger and seeking to forgive in different ways? Is there a difference between JT's choosing to stay angry at his father for his punishment and Glorianna's anger toward God?
5. What other themes do you see in the story?
6. We see how harsh and deadly living by Lake Superior could be. At one point, Glorianna thinks about how she isn't stuck there anymore. She could leave. Why do you think she chooses to stay in the end? What effect do you think living in such harsh conditions has on the people of Duluth?
7. Chapter 18 references the floating islands of Minnesota and how people had built the village of Freemont on one of these islands. How do you think the image of a village built on such an impermanent foundation ties in to the story?