

1. In the beginning of the story, Mallory thinks she has life all figured out... until life turns a blind corner. Has your life ever taken a sudden turn you weren't anticipating? How did you react to the change?
2. When Daniel gets the job offer in Texas, Mallory finds herself forced to choose between her career and her love for Daniel. Do you think she made the right choice? How much should we sacrifice to make someone else's dreams come true?
3. Mallory has struggled all her life to step out from the shadows of her older sisters and to escape her parents' control. How much of her decision-making do you think is based on her position as the caboose baby in the family? Do you think birth order determines personality? Have you seen this in your own family?
4. Mallory's mother advises her to "get over herself" and apologize when she and Daniel have their first big fight. Mallory feels that her mother is asking her to stuff down her feelings and be a doormat. Do you agree? What was your mother's best advice for resolving marital disagreements?
5. Mallory struggles with the feeling that she is "losing herself" to the demands of marriage and motherhood. Do you think too much is asked of women, in terms of sacrificing themselves for family? Is it possible to have it all? Where do you think the balance should be between the traditional 1950s housewife and the modern mom?
6. When Mallory meets Cowgirl Al, Al takes her under wing even though Al lives a fairly reclusive life. Why do you think she decides to befriend Mallory? What bonds them together?
7. Mallory's first struggle in Moses Lake is making the ranch house habitable for the family. She likens it to coming to Texas as a pioneer. How well do you think she does in adopting the pioneer spirit? Have you ever felt like a pioneer trying something new? Do you have a funny "critter" story to share?
8. Both Mallory and Al are struggling to leave the past behind. Do you think it's ever possible to fully move beyond the past? How can we accomplish that? Should we?
9. When Mallory begins to document her adventures in *The Frontier Woman* blog, she finds that she begins to look for adventure in her life. How can journaling, blogging, or documenting our experiences change the way we look at life? How has blogging changed our culture? Is it a change for the better or for the worse?
10. Keren struggles with the pressure from her family, but in a different way than Mallory. She feels that God is using her right where she is, even though her family doesn't fully support her decision to put so much of herself into her career. Mallory also wonders how we can know which voice inside us is God's voice and which voice we may be creating on our own. When we feel a calling that other people do not support or understand, how can we know if it's God's voice we're hearing?

11. When Mallory finds out who Al really is, she jumps to conclusions. Do you think she is justified in this? Have you ever jumped to conclusions about someone based on evidence, and then been sorry later?

12. In the end, Mallory uncovers a political scandal that she is in the unique position to combat. She feels that she finally understands some of God's reasons for sending her to Moses Lake. Have you ever been surprised by God's plans in your life?