

On the Same Page

November: *Christy* by Catherine Marshall

Set in the majestic Great Smoky Mountains in 1912, *Christy* is the story of a nineteen-year-old girl who leaves a life of privilege for a one-room schoolhouse in a backwoods mission. Unprepared for the harsh realities that awaited her as a teacher, Christy struggles to understand the customs of the mountain people. But through it all, she learns about faith and the power of love.

Questions:

1. What did you think of the book, *Christy*? Was it a good read or was it difficult to read?
2. Who was your favorite character in the book? Why?
3. Who was your least favorite character in the book? Why?
4. When Christy first arrived at the train station in El Pano, the town nearest Cutter Gap, there was no one to meet her and no clues as to where to go next. How did she manage to proceed from there? How did this introduction to the mountain community foreshadow her entire experience away from home?
5. Miss Alice spoke of the “code of the mountain people,” where “no mountain person wants to be beholden. Any mountain man has contempt for anyone who won’t let him earn his own way.” How did this code impact the mission and its staff? What might have been at the root of this fierce independence?
6. Christy observed that David’s sister, Miss Ida Grantland, lacked real warmth, that her face exhibited a wooden “puppet’s smile.” What was the source of Ida’s disdain toward Christy? How did Ida’s and Christy’s relationship change?
7. Who was Miss Alice? How did she and Christy relate to one another? What parts of Miss Alice’s story encouraged Christy to think deeper about her own faith?

8. What were some of the situations that challenged Christy's faith throughout the story? How did her faith change? Why did Miss Alice encourage Christy to question every aspect of her faith?

9. How did love demonstrate its power on characters in Cutter Gap, particularly in Bird's Eye Taylor?

10. Despite David's confidence and devotion as a preacher of God, Christy felt there was a hollowness in him. What aspects of David's character troubled Christy?

11. What did you think about the book's final scene? Did the strength of Dr. MacNeill's love call Christy back from her typhoid delirium?

12. The author wrote the story in the first person, even though she was telling her mother's story. In a sense, she was reliving her mother's life through this book. If you were to look closely at an experience in one of your parents' lives, what story might you want to relate?