



WILDWOOD, DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. In *Wildwood*, Molly and Bridget return to a pre-technology lifestyle. Have you ever longed for a simpler life? What would you miss the most about living off the grid? What would you enjoy the most about living off the grid?
2. Both Molly and Bridget are healed through a closer connection with the world around them. Do you believe in the healing power of nature?
3. Nature also produces some mortal dangers, including their terrifying encounter with a bear. Bear encounters are not uncommon in Canada, even today. Have you ever felt threatened by a wild animal?
4. Their isolation forced the pioneers to be utterly self-reliant. Have you ever found yourself in a difficult situation where you help was unavailable?
5. In reading her journal, Molly is struck by the fact that her great-aunt was only a teenage girl. Do you think teenagers today could rise to the challenges faced by the young pioneers who immigrated to Canada?
6. The knowledge required to bake bread, churn butter, knit socks, sew quilts, and many other household skills that were once commonplace are now being lost. Do you think some effort should be made to preserve these pioneer skills?
7. Since Molly lacked confidence in her parenting ability, she was reluctant to discipline Bridget. How and why did Molly's confidence increase during the book? As a parent, how did you handle your children when they misbehaved?
8. We don't learn until the last page that Molly's great-aunt suffered a personal tragedy. What clues appear throughout the book pointing to this incident?
9. Wynona's family is still suffering from the lingering effects of her grandmother's stay in a residential school. Discuss when and how you think the First Nations people will be able to recover from this experience.
10. At the conclusion of *Wildwood*, Molly decides to modernize her house by installing plumbing and electricity. Do you agree with her decision?
11. If you could ask the author one question, what would you ask? Elinor welcomes all questions, and answers every email!