

Discussion Questions
The Song of Sourwood Mountain
By Ann H. Gabhart

Mira tells herself she is satisfied with her life as a spinster schoolteacher after the man she loved and planned to marry dies of tuberculosis, but the sorrow of never being a mother still haunts her. Do you think she could have ever been truly happy as an unmarried teacher?

In that time period, women were not allowed to continue as schoolteachers once they married. Why do you think that was? Does that rule surprise you? Do you think it was right or wrong?

Gordon feels the Lord prompted him to propose to Mira. Does the Lord sometimes nudge us to do something unusual or out of our comfort zone? Could the Lord have been answering an unspoken, perhaps even unimagined prayer, for both Gordon and Mira? Has the Lord sometimes opened doors (or opportunities) to you that you hadn't considered being there?

Do you think it took courage for Mira to follow Gordon to Eastern Kentucky to teach at the mission school in Sourwood? Did she need even more courage to accept his audacious marriage proposal?

Mira could have gone to the mountains to teach and boarded with one of the mountain families. Why would she impetuously choose to marry Gordon instead?

Gordon was bothered when the Sourwood people he'd been living among for several years still considered him brought-in, their word for outsiders. Why did that bother him? Do you think that would have ever changed if he stayed there years longer?

Ada June desperately wants to be loved, but at the same time, she seems afraid to trust the people in the community after her mother dies. Why do you think she struggles to speak to them and why would she often rather sleep in the woods than at their houses?

Ada June loves her dog, Bo. Why is Bo so important to Ada June? Have you ever had a pet you loved that much?

Mira has to make many adjustments from city life to life in the mountains. Water had to be carried from the spring or creek. A fireplace was the only heat and Mira couldn't imagine how to cook over an open fire. There were no stores nearby or doctors. What conveniences would you miss most?

Why do you think it took longer for Mira to speak words of love to Gordon than it did for him to tell her he loved her? What were ways they showed love to one another even before the words were spoken?

Did Ada June capture your heart the way she did Mira's?

Ada June's desire to learn to read burned inside her. I can't imagine what my life would have been like if I hadn't learned to read. Would I still be a storyteller? How would your life be different if you couldn't read?