



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Finding Flora by Elinor Florence

1. Were you surprised to learn that the American government was more progressive than the Canadian government in allowing single women to claim free homesteads? Why do you think the law was different in Canada?
2. The Métis people of Red River, Manitoba were robbed of their land by an unscrupulous federal government. Were you aware of this historical injustice? Do you think their descendants are entitled to compensation?
3. The ignorance of European settlers who arrived in Canada with no knowledge of their new environment is staggering. Discuss what must have been their first impressions.
4. The isolation of people living in homesteads sometimes literally drove them mad. Do you think you would be able to survive for months without any contact with another human being?
5. Almost every settler family lost a baby or young child, sometimes several of them. Do you think people were more hardened to grief and loss in the past than they are today?
6. What was the most memorable scene or twist in the story? Do you think the women were justified in hiding Hector's body?
7. How well did the author blend historical fact and fiction in this book? Did you find the book accurate and authentic? Did you learn something new about the time and place in which it is set?
8. How do you think the residents of Ladyville, including the children, changed and evolved during the course of their adventures?
9. What do you think happened to the characters after the book concluded? Were you surprised by the ending?

These questions were taken from <https://www.elinorflorence.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Finding-Flora-Discussion-Guide.pdf> to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Elinor Florence grew up on a Saskatchewan farm and earned degrees in English and journalism. She worked for newspapers in all four Western provinces, spent eight years writing for Reader's Digest Canada, and even published her own award-winning community newspaper. Her first novel, *Bird's Eye View*, was a national bestseller, while the second, *Wildwood*, was named one of Kobo's Hundred Most Popular Canadian Books of All Time. *Finding Flora* was inspired by her own Scottish homesteading and Indigenous ancestors. She is a member of the Métis Nation of British Columbia and makes her home in the mountain resort of Invermere. (<https://www.elinorflorence.com/>)

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