



Listing of book discussions

- Feb. 20:** Interested in *Gloryland*, but can't easily read it? Join us for the Audiobook Club, as we listen to and discuss the book in stages. 2-3:30 pm; Senior Resource Center
- Feb. 22:** United Presbyterian Book Club Discussion. 2 pm; United Presbyterian Church, Holy Grounds
- Feb. 27:** Audiobook Club. 2-3:30 pm; Senior Resource Center
- Mar. 6:** Audiobook Club. 2-3:30 pm; Senior Resource Center
- Mar. 7:** Clarence Mitchell Library Book Discussion 2 pm; Clarence Mitchell Library, Highland Community College
- Mar. 13:** Audiobook Club. 2-3:30 pm; Senior Resource Center
- Mar. 15:** Senior Center Book Club Discussion. 3 pm; Senior Resource Center
- Mar. 15:** Caxton Book Club. 7 pm; Eilerts
- Mar. 16:** About a Book Discussion Group. 6 pm; FPL
- Mar. 19:** Prince of Peace Book Group Discussion. 3:30 pm; Prince of Peace Church
- Mar. 20:** Audiobook Club. 2-3:30 pm; Senior Resource Center
- Mar. 20:** Pearl City Public Library Book Discussion. 6 pm; Pearl City Public Library
- Mar. 23:** Happy Bookers Book Club Discussion. 11:30 am; 9 East Coffee
- Mar. 27:** Audiobook Club. 2-3:30 pm; Senior Resource Center
- Mar. 27:** Shakespeare Society Discussion Group. 7 pm; Parkview (All purpose room)
- Mar. 29:** Book Club Discussion Group. 10:30 am; 9 East Coffee
- Mar. 29:** Reader's Inc. Book Discussion. Noon; FPL
- Mar. 29:** Parkview Home Book Discussion. 3:30 pm; Parkview (All purpose room)
- Mar. 29:** Read On Book Discussion. 7 pm; Eilerts
- Apr. 3:** Audiobook Club. 2-3:30 pm; Senior Resource Center
- Apr. 6:** HCC Book Club Discussion. 1 pm; Parkview Home Community Center
- Apr. 10:** Audiobook Club. 2-3:30 pm; Senior Resource Center

For more information about programs and events, visit www.freeportpubliclibrary.org/onebook

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Book Discussion Guide



Questions for your book discussions:

Pgs. 3-10: “Getting Started” and “Birthday”

- 1) Explain: “What you’re about to read is not all I remember, but it is most definitely what I can’t forget.”
- 2) Elijah’s parents told him he was welcome to stay...but his attitude had to go. Why?

Pgs. 13-25: “Dreaming” and “Sundays”

- 3) Examine the incident in town when a white man stepped on Elijah’s foot and its impact on Elijah’s thinking.
- 4) What aspects of African-American culture are revealed through this chapter – and why is it important?

Pgs. 27-43: “Voting” and “Grandma Sara”

- 5) Why is Daddy determined to attempt to register to vote? What is the outcome of his attempt?
- 6) How do the truths that Grandma Sara instills in Elijah help the reader understand him and his actions?

Pgs. 45-61: “Lighting up the Woods” and “Sidewalk”

- 7) Analyze the effect on Elijah of what he witnesses in the woods. Note the ways the author conveys this.
- 8) Connect this event to Elijah’s decision to use his day off to go to walk on the wooden sidewalk in town.

Pgs. 63-72: “Daddy’s Suggestion” and “Blood Memory”

- 9) How could this chapter be considered a pivotal point in the book?
- 10) How does Elijah’s dream the night before his departure prepare the reader to look for a larger theme?

Pgs. 81-97: “Walking” and “Fort Robinson, Nebraska”

- 11) How much time elapsed before Elijah reached Nebraska? How did he remain safe and well as he traveled?
- 12) What factors convinced Elijah to join the military? Why does he state that there are two kinds of slavery?

Pgs. 99-113: “9th Cavalryman” and “Buffalo Soldier”

- 13) Why does he say that he is now visible – and why are he and the other black cavalrymen called Buffalo Soldiers?
- 14) Explain: The slaughter of buffalo herds was the same as killing the Indians.

Pgs. 115-125: “The Florida Blockade” and “The Philippines”

- 15) List some of the factors that contribute to Elijah’s growing sense of anger and unease.
- 16) What analogy does Elijah draw between the Filipinos and the Native Americans he had previously fought?

Pgs. 127-135: “Two Prayers from Luzon” and “The Logan and Captain Young”

- 17) Describe the passion and emotions the author blends into these two prayers.
- 18) How does meeting Captain Young on the ship teach Elijah a lesson about life and human nature?

Pgs. 137-145: “A Prayer at Sea” and “Parade”

- 19) How is this prayer a reflection of Elijah’s overview about his actions as a soldier?

- 20) Identify some striking aspects about the parade day in San Francisco and the arrival of President Roosevelt.

Pgs. 147-156: “Woman at Crissy Field” and “Lombard Gate”

- 21) What is Elijah endeavoring to convey to us through the description of the woman in the white dress?
- 22) What happened to change the way that Elijah felt about Troop K being assigned to Yosemite?

Pgs. 159-177: “Trail Hazards,” “Relaxing at a Bar in Raymond,” and “On Patrol”

- 23) What insights about people does Elijah gain from the incident with the deer-hunting father and son?
- 24) Identify these characters & their actions in above chapters: Ben Bane, William Dunn, and Corp. Bingham.

Pgs. 179-194: “Blood Memory,” “Cocked Pistol,” and “Leaving Anger”

- 25) Explain how this statement is true: Elijah was “born in Spartanburg but woke up in Yosemite.”
- 26) How does Pt. 1st Class Bledsoe’s depression manifest itself?
- 27) Why did Elijah believe that coming to Yosemite was God’s way of helping him leave behind his anger?

Pgs. 197-213: “Hetch Hetchy” and “Right There at Heaven’s Gate”

- 28) What does Elijah learn from his meeting with the Native American mother and daughter?
- 29) How does he compare the mountains, streams, and trees to God, church, a deacon, and the sermon?

Pgs. 215-229: “Campfires” and “Horse Heaven”

- 30) How can nature be more like medicine rather than just scenery for these soldiers?
- 31) What was special about Horse Heaven, and how does this convince the reader that Elijah is truly in touch with nature?

Pgs. 231-247: “When Blackness Came to Yosemite,” “Prayers from High Country,” and “Blood Memory”

- 32) How long do you think that one has to be in a place before the trees take notice?
- 33) What does the dream-like image of people wading in a river suggest about Elijah’s past and future?

Pgs. 249-265: “Private Property,” “Uzumati,” and “Letter from Yosemite”

- 34) State the purpose served by each of the following: Elijah escorting Emanuel off the mountain; encountering the mamma bear; writing letters to family back home.

Pgs. 267-275: “Down to the Valley” and “Getting Done”

- 35) For Elijah, at first the journey down to the valley is a sad one; yet, as the fog lifts, he recognizes the things within all of us that are eternal. Why is it important to let go of those things that hurt us or hold us back?
- 36) Some say *Gloryland* is a journey story – a journey to freedom - of both spirit and mind. Do you agree or disagree?

