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## Discussion Questions: ***Crow Lake*** by Mary Lawson

**From: Book-Club.co.nz:**

1. "Thou shalt not emote." How does this strong Presbyterian ethic influence the childrens' ongoing relationships and future?
2. If the children had been separated after the loss of their parents, how different do you think their lives would have been?
3. Discuss the close bond between Kate and Matt - why do you think they became so distant?
4. The Pye family's disturbing history is like a Greek tragedy - the sins of the fathers are visited on the sons. The pattern seems like it cannot be broken. Discuss the different patterns in the Crow Lake families that are passed on unbroken to the next generation.
5. Great grandmother's famous book stand becomes a symbol of the importance of education to furthur oneself. How important was this to the choices that the Morrison children made? Do you think that this entrenched faith in the value of education was justified? How fulfilled are each of the characters ultimately, with or without education?
6. The burden of raising their younger sisters falls heavily on Luke and Matt's shoulders. How do they handle the responsibility? How does it effect the outcome of their lives?
7. Mary Lawson's portrayal of the natural world - the pond life, the farming landscape. How effective do you think these are in Crow Lake? What is their importance to the storyline?
8. Daniel accuses Kate of not showing understanding or empathy, and underestimating the other's lives. What do you think of the adult Kate? How has her failure to forgive effected her and Matt's lives and happiness?
9. How is guilt a motivating factor in all the children's choices and relationships?
10. What do you imagine the future holds for Kate and Daniel? and her relationship with Matt?

*Discussion Questions excerpted from **Book-Club.co.nz**. Provided by the Patterson Library.*