

## BOOK DISCUSSION

### SUGGESTIONS FOR BOOK CLUB DISCUSSIONS

- 1) When we meet Myra and her family, they are sharecroppers raising a cotton crop. What roles do the parents and siblings play in supporting the family? How are decisions made on who plays what role?
- 2) How does the author bring you into Myra's world? How are Myra's struggles and joys related?
- 3) Consider the first time Myra loses a loved one. She thinks about praying but doesn't know what to say to God, since they have never met. How does her faith or spirituality grow throughout the book?
- 4) Myra seems to have a knack for developing relationships that help her through hard times. What are the relationships that she values most, and what personality traits allow her to connect with the good people in her life?
- 5) What motivates James to marry Myra? Was he really as bad as he seemed? What were his good traits?
- 6) Why does Myra's ma suffer so throughout her life?
- 7) What is the significance of the boy in the blue suit? Are there clues throughout the book to lead you to the conclusion that Myra reaches at the end of story?
- 8) How does the relationship between Myra and her in-laws develop throughout the story?
- 9) Sometimes our greatest strengths can also be our greatest faults. How does this apply to Myra and James?
- 10) What is the symbolic meaning of the title, Cotton in Augusta?
- 11) In Epilogue, author writes: "James remained childlike throughout his life. They had a deep abiding love, but neither could understand or accept the other's nature." Do you see any sign of either Myra or James understanding and accepting each other's nature?
- 12) The men in Myra's life enjoyed options not available to Myra. If she lived in today's world, would she have excused James' behavior and remained married to him?

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