



## *The Book of Moon*, by George Crowder

### **Sample Book Club Questions**

- 1) Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not?
- 2) Did you have any characters you particularly liked? Who?
- 3) Was the ending satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?
- 4) Many readers have described the book as “funny.” Were there any bits that made you laugh out loud? Which ones?
- 5) The parents gave Moon and Moss distinctive names. Have you run across people with unusual names? What were they? (The author has met individuals named “Ima Lima Bean,” “Sherman Oaks,” “Royal Forrest Oaks,” and “Usnaby”—uh, that’s “U.S. Navy”!) Why do you think parents do that? How do you think it affects a child to have an unusual name?
- 6) One result of Moon’s religious exploration is his appreciation of the importance of forgiveness. Did that resonate for you personally? Have there been individuals you’ve found it particularly difficult to forgive? Were you able to do so, eventually?
- 7) Many people would not agree with Moon’s interpretation of the Book of Job. Did it offend you? How do you personally make sense of Job’s tribulations at the hand of Satan?

- 8) Moon clearly remembers both those teachers he likes, and those he dreaded. Do you have any teachers who dramatically affected your life? How did they do that?
- 9) One of the story threads is Moon's quest to find his calling. What profession do you foresee in his future?
- 10) Many people either don't like math or have some pretty bad memories of math classes. What about your own experiences? Is there anything in Moon's teaching approach that might have helped you? What and how?
- 11) Some readers have described the majority of the characters as "nice," or "likeable." Do you agree? If so, did the absence of outright "villains" make the book less interesting?
- 12) Do you think this book would be of interest to young people? Why or why not?
- 13) Mr. Smith represents an adult who, while not a parent, provides support and guidance to a young person. Do you think a relationship like this is common, or is it rare? Any you care to share from your own life?
- 14) Books in this genre are characterized as "coming-of-age" books. They're not easy to encapsulate with a back-of-the-book synopsis. If asked, how would you briefly describe what the book is about? (The author would be delighted to hear these thoughts!!!)
- 15) If Moon were asked, "Is four a *factor* or a *multiple*?" he would doubtless answer, "It's *both*—a multiple of one, two, and four—and a factor of many numbers, such as eight, twelve, sixteen, and twenty. Because these terms define the *relationships* between four and other numbers." **Relationships.** Most of us must carry on many of them at the same time. Is it hard to simultaneously handle the roles of, say, mother, sister, daughter, wife? How do you feel Janice Landing did with her juggling?
- 16) Was Moon's father an alcoholic? How did you feel about his drinking problem? Do you feel it was sufficient grounds for divorce?
- 17) Do protagonists in books always behave the way you think they should? If not, does that cause you to lose sympathy for them?

How do you rationalize that they do not handle situations the way you think they ought to?

- 18) Are there any other novels this book reminded you of? If so, which?
- 19) Most of us are not skateboarders! The author included considerable skateboard terminology, attempting to explain it without slowing the action of the narrative. Were you able to get some sense of the skateboard action? Was it a net plus or a net minus for your experience of the book as a whole?
- 20) We read books because they enrich our lives. Is there anything from *The Book of Moon* that enriched *yours*? Specifically, what? What will you take away from the book?
- 21) Do you have any questions for the author? Most likely he'd answer them, if he were asked...