



The End of the Wild Discussion Questions

Directions: Read the book with your child and use the questions to increase his or her understanding of the book's message.

1. Describe how Fern and her family are dependent on the forest.
2. The woods in Fern's community are threatened by **hydraulic fracking**. What is **hydraulic fracking**, and how can it be harmful to the natural environment?
3. Some residents of Fern's community are excited that fracking will bring jobs to the area. Fern wonders, "Just a little bit, I'm worried I'm on the wrong side" (pg 223). Do you think the author does a good job of showing both sides of this issue?
4. Fern often seems to be stuck between "a rock and a hard place." Give some examples of times when Fern gets caught in the middle between two points of view, and discuss how she tries to resolve these issues.
5. Compare and contrast Fern's grandfather and her stepfather, Toivo.
6. Fern says, "Toivo thinks I don't understand the constant itch of being poor, how it's always a bug biting your back in a place you can't reach" (pg 163). How does her family's poverty affect Fern?
7. What do you think Toivo means when he says, "One of these days, you're going to have to cut the duck from Millner's neck, too" (end of Ch. 8)?
8. "As Horace Millner walks away carrying that heavy load, he seems to take with him a heavy load of mine" (end of Ch. 14). What do you think Fern means when she says this?
9. When Alkomso and Mark-Richard win 1st prize at the STEM fair, Fern concludes, "Alkomso beat me. Fracking beat the woods." Do you agree with her conclusion?
10. What do you think the book's title, *The End of the Wild*, means?