

a good man is hard to find discussion questions

A Good Man Is Hard to Find Discussion Questions: Unpacking Flannery O'Connor's Southern Gothic Masterpiece

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Introduction:

Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" is a chilling and complex short story that continues to captivate readers and spark lively discussions. Its unsettling blend of dark humor, grotesque imagery, and profound religious undertones provides a rich tapestry for critical analysis. This article offers a comprehensive exploration of a good man is hard to find discussion questions, providing diverse methodologies and approaches to stimulate insightful conversations and deeper understanding of O'Connor's masterpiece. We will examine various levels of interpretation, from character analysis and thematic exploration to a consideration of the story's broader cultural and historical context.

I. Character Analysis: A Good Man Is Hard to Find Discussion Questions Focused on Individuals

A crucial aspect of engaging with "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" lies in analyzing its compelling characters.

A good man is hard to find discussion questions focusing on character should probe their motivations, flaws, and transformations throughout the narrative.

The Grandmother: What are the grandmother's motivations? Is she truly concerned for her family's safety, or are her actions driven by selfishness and self-preservation? How does her manipulative nature contribute to the tragic events? Analyze her hypocrisy and the conflict between her outward piety and her inward selfishness. Discuss the evolution, or lack thereof, of her character.

The Misfit: Explore the Misfit's backstory and his philosophy. Is he purely evil, or is there a deeper complexity to his character? How does his interaction with the grandmother reveal his own internal conflicts and moral ambiguity? Discuss the significance of his name and whether it truly reflects his nature. Consider the possibility of redemption hinted at in the story's final moments.

The Children: Analyze the children's roles and their perspectives on the events. How do they contribute to the overall atmosphere of the story? How does their innocence contrast with the violence and moral depravity surrounding them?

Bailey: How does Bailey's character function as a foil to the grandmother? What are his strengths and weaknesses as a father and husband?

These are just some examples of a good man is hard to find discussion questions centered on individual character development. Encourage students to analyze character relationships, motivations, and the impact of their actions on the narrative's progression.

II. Thematic Exploration: Delving Deeper with A Good Man Is Hard to Find Discussion Questions

Beyond character analysis, a good man is hard to find discussion questions should delve into the rich thematic landscape of the story.

Good vs. Evil: How does O'Connor portray the complexities of good and evil? Is there a clear distinction between the two, or are these concepts more nuanced and intertwined? Discuss the story's title in this context.

Grace and Redemption: Explore the possibility of grace and redemption within the narrative. Does the Misfit experience a moment of spiritual awakening? How does the grandmother's death contribute to this theme?

Family Dynamics: Analyze the dysfunctional family dynamics depicted in the story. How do the relationships between the characters contribute to the overall tension and conflict?

Violence and Death: Discuss O'Connor's use of violence and death as literary devices. How do these

elements contribute to the story's impact and overall meaning?

Southern Identity: Explore the role of setting and the significance of the Southern Gothic tradition in shaping the story's atmosphere and themes. How does the setting contribute to the story's overall mood and message?

These thematic a good man is hard to find discussion questions will lead to richer interpretations and encourage critical engagement with O'Connor's artistic choices.

III. Literary Devices and Style: Analyzing O'Connor's Craft

A good man is hard to find discussion questions should also address O'Connor's masterful use of literary devices.

Irony: Analyze the pervasive irony throughout the story. How does O'Connor use irony to heighten the tension and reveal the characters' flaws?

Grotesque Imagery: Discuss O'Connor's use of grotesque imagery. How does this contribute to the story's unsettling atmosphere and thematic exploration?

Symbolism: Explore the use of symbols, such as the grandmother's cat, the family's car, and the setting itself. What do these symbols represent in the context of the story?

Narrative Structure: Discuss the effectiveness of O'Connor's narrative structure. How does the story's pacing and point of view contribute to its overall impact?

IV. Contextualizing the Story: Broadening the Scope of A Good Man Is Hard to Find Discussion Questions

To fully appreciate "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," a good man is hard to find discussion questions should extend beyond the text itself.

Historical Context: How does the story reflect the social and political climate of the time in which it was written?

Religious Context: Analyze the story's religious dimensions and O'Connor's Catholic faith. How does her faith inform her portrayal of grace, redemption, and the human condition?

Southern Gothic Tradition: Discuss the story's relationship to the Southern Gothic literary tradition. How does it exemplify the key characteristics of this genre?

V. Developing Discussion Strategies for A Good Man Is Hard to Find

Discussion Questions

To facilitate productive discussions, employ various methodologies:

Socratic Seminars: Structure discussions around carefully chosen questions, prompting students to engage in thoughtful dialogue and critical analysis.

Small Group Discussions: Divide students into smaller groups to discuss specific aspects of the story before sharing their insights with the larger group.

Jigsaw Activities: Assign different sections or themes to different groups, encouraging collaborative learning and sharing of perspectives.

Response Papers: Require students to write short essays or response papers reflecting on specific aspects of the story or answering targeted a good man is hard to find discussion questions.

Creative Assignments: Encourage students to explore the story through creative writing assignments, such as writing from the perspective of a different character or creating a modern adaptation of the story.

Conclusion:

"A Good Man Is Hard to Find" remains a powerful and thought-provoking work of literature. By exploring diverse a good man is hard to find discussion questions using various methodologies, we can unlock a deeper understanding of O'Connor's artistry and the enduring relevance of her themes. Engaging with this text encourages critical thinking, fosters insightful dialogue, and stimulates a deeper appreciation for the complexities of the human condition.

FAQs:

1. What is the central theme of "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"? The central theme revolves around the complexities of good and evil, grace, redemption, and the unpredictable nature of human behavior.
1. What is the significance of the Misfit's character? The Misfit represents a complex figure embodying both moral ambiguity and a potential for spiritual awakening.

1. How does the setting contribute to the story's atmosphere? The setting in the American South during the 1950s creates a sense of place and contributes to the overall atmosphere of suspense and impending doom.
1. What are some key symbols in the story? Key symbols include the grandmother's cat, the family's car, and the landscape, all reflecting aspects of the characters and their fate.
1. What is the role of irony in the story? Irony is pervasive, highlighting the characters' flaws and the tragic irony of their situation.
1. How does O'Connor use grotesque imagery? Grotesque imagery enhances the unsettling atmosphere and reflects the moral decay and spiritual emptiness of the characters.
1. What is the significance of the story's title? The title itself is ironic, suggesting the difficulty of finding genuine goodness and the prevalence of moral ambiguity.
1. How can I use this story in the classroom? Utilize various discussion strategies, creative writing assignments, and analytical essays to engage students with the story's complexities.
1. What are some alternative interpretations of the story's ending? The ending allows for multiple interpretations, including the possibility of the grandmother's achieving a moment of grace or genuine recognition of the Misfit's humanity.

1. "Flannery O'Connor's Use of Grotesque Imagery in 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find'": Explores the function and effect of grotesque imagery in shaping the story's themes and atmosphere.
1. "The Misfit's Moral Ambiguity: A Psychoanalytic Reading of 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find'": Provides a psychoanalytic lens through which to analyze the Misfit's character and motivations.
1. "Family Dysfunction in Flannery O'Connor's Short Stories: A Comparative Analysis": Compares the family dynamics in "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" with other O'Connor stories.
1. "The Southern Gothic Tradition and its Influence on 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find'": Explores the story's place within the larger context of Southern Gothic literature.
1. "Religious Symbolism and the Search for Redemption in 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find'": Analyzes the religious undertones and the possibility of redemption in the story.
1. "Irony and Moral Ambiguity in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction": Examines the use of irony in O'Connor's work, with a focus on "A Good Man Is Hard to Find."
1. "A Comparative Study of Character Development in Flannery O'Connor's Short Stories": Compares and contrasts the development of characters across O'Connor's works, focusing on the grandmother and the Misfit.
1. "Teaching 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find': Strategies for Engaging Students": Offers practical pedagogical strategies for incorporating the story into the classroom.

1. "Thematic Resonance in Flannery O'Connor's 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find' and William Faulkner's 'A Rose for Emily'": Compares and contrasts thematic elements in two classic Southern Gothic works.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: A Good Man is Hard to Find Flannery O'Connor, 1955 See publisher description:

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *Mystery and Manners* Flannery O'Connor, 1969 This collection shows Flannery O'Connor's extraordinary versatility and expertise as a practitioner of the essayistic form. The book opens with *The King of the Birds*, her famous account of raising peacocks. There are three essays on regional writing, two on teaching literature, and four on the writer and religion. Essays such as *The Nature and Aim of Fiction* and *Writing Short Stories* are gems, and their value to the contemporary reader -- and writer -- is inestimable. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *Women and Men* Joseph McElroy, 2023-01-17 Beginning in childbirth and entered like a multiple dwelling in motion, *Women and Men* embraces and anatomizes the 1970s in New York - from experiments in the chaotic relations between the sexes to the flux of the city itself. Yet through an intricate overlay of scenes, voices, fact, and myth, this expanding fiction finds its way also across continents and into earlier and future times and indeed the Earth, to reveal connections between the most disparate lives and systems of feeling and power. At its breathing heart, it plots the fuguelike and fieldlike densities of late-twentieth-century life. McElroy rests a global vision on two people, apartment-house neighbors who never quite meet. Except, that is, in the population of others whose histories cross their believers and skeptics; lovers, friends, and hermits; children, parents, grandparents, avatars, and, apparently, angels. For *Women and Men* shows how the families through which we pass let one person's experience belong to that of many, so that we throw light on each other as if these kinships were refracted lives so real as to be reincarnate. A mirror of manners, the book is also a meditation on the languages, rich, ludicrous, exact, and also American, in which we try to grasp the world we're in. Along the kindred axes of separation and intimacy *Women and Men* extends the great line of twentieth-century innovative fiction.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: The Complete Stories Flannery O'Connor, 1971 Thirty one short stories that offer a picture of the Deep South.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *The Sun Does Shine* Anthony Ray Hinton, Lara Love Hardin, 2018-03-27 A powerful, revealing story of hope, love, justice, and the power of reading by a man who spent thirty years on death row for a crime he didn't commit--

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: The Last Midwife Sandra Dallas, 2015-09-29 With Sandra Dallas's incomparable gift for creating a sense of time and place and characters that capture your heart, *The Last Midwife* tells the story of family, community, and the secrets that can destroy and unite them. It is 1880 and Gracy Brookens is the only midwife in a small Colorado mining town where she has delivered hundreds, maybe thousands, of babies in her lifetime. The women of Swandyke trust and depend on Gracy, and most couldn't imagine getting through pregnancy and labor without her by their sides. But everything changes when a baby is found dead...and the evidence points to Gracy as the murderer. She didn't commit the crime, but clearing her name isn't so easy when her innocence is not quite as simple, either. She knows things, and that's dangerous. Invited into her neighbors' homes during their most intimate and vulnerable times, she can't help what she sees and hears. A woman sometimes says things in the birthing bed,

when life and death seem suspended within the same moment. Gracy has always tucked those revelations away, even the confessions that have cast shadows on her heart. With her friends taking sides and a trial looming, Gracy must decide whether it's worth risking everything to prove her innocence. And she knows that her years of discretion may simply demand too high a price now...especially since she's been keeping more than a few dark secrets of her own.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: The Four Winds Kristin Hannah, 2021-02-02 The Bestselling Hardcover Novel of the Year.--Publishers Weekly From the number-one bestselling author of *The Nightingale* and *The Great Alone* comes a powerful American epic about love and heroism and hope, set during the Great Depression, a time when the country was in crisis and at war with itself, when millions were out of work and even the land seemed to have turned against them. "My land tells its story if you listen. The story of our family." Texas, 1921. A time of abundance. The Great War is over, the bounty of the land is plentiful, and America is on the brink of a new and optimistic era. But for Elsa Wolcott, deemed too old to marry in a time when marriage is a woman's only option, the future seems bleak. Until the night she meets Rafe Martinelli and decides to change the direction of her life. With her reputation in ruin, there is only one respectable choice: marriage to a man she barely knows. By 1934, the world has changed; millions are out of work and drought has devastated the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as crops fail and water dries up and the earth cracks open. Dust storms roll relentlessly across the plains. Everything on the Martinelli farm is dying, including Elsa's tenuous marriage; each day is a desperate battle against nature and a fight to keep her children alive. In this uncertain and perilous time, Elsa—like so many of her neighbors—must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or leave it behind and go west, to California, in search of a better life for her family. *The Four Winds* is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it—the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the enduring battle between the haves and the have-nots. A testament to hope, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity, *The Four Winds* is an indelible portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *The Unseen World: A Novel* Liz Moore, 2016-07-26 From the New York Times bestselling author of *Long Bright River*: The moving story of a daughter's quest to discover the truth about her beloved father's hidden past. Ada Sibelius is raised by David, her brilliant, eccentric, socially inept single father, who directs a computer science lab in 1980s-era Boston. Home-schooled, Ada accompanies David to work every day; by twelve, she is a painfully shy prodigy. The lab begins to gain acclaim at the same time that David's mysterious history comes into question. When his mind begins to falter, leaving Ada virtually an orphan, she is taken in by one of David's colleagues. Soon she embarks on a mission to uncover her father's secrets: a process that carries her from childhood to adulthood. What Ada discovers on her journey into a virtual universe will keep the reader riveted until *The Unseen World's* heart-stopping, fascinating conclusion.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: The Book Thief Markus Zusak, 2007-12-18 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • ONE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S 100 BEST YA BOOKS OF ALL TIME The extraordinary, beloved novel about the ability of books to feed the soul even in the darkest of times. When Death has a story to tell, you listen. It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time. "The kind of book that can be life-changing." —The New York Times "Deserves a place on the same shelf with *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank." —USA Today

DON'T MISS BRIDGE OF CLAY, MARKUS ZUSAK'S FIRST NOVEL SINCE THE BOOK THIEF.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: The Gangster We Are All Looking For
Thi Diem Thuy Le, 2011-04-13 The highly acclaimed novel that reveals the life of a Vietnamese family in America through the knowing eyes of a child finding her place and voice in a new country. "A brilliant evocation of human sorrow and desire.... Heartbreaking and exhilarating." —The New York Times Book Review In 1978 six refugees—a girl, her father, and four "uncles"—are pulled from the sea to begin a new life in San Diego. In the child's imagination, the world is transmuted into an unearthly realm: she sees everything intensely, hears the distress calls of inanimate objects, and waits for her mother to join her. But life loses none of its strangeness when the family is reunited. As the girl grows, her matter-of-fact innocence eddies increasingly around opaque and ghostly traumas: the cataclysm that engulfed her homeland, the memory of a brother who drowned and, most inescapable, her father's hopeless rage.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: Pachinko (National Book Award Finalist) Min Jin Lee, 2017-02-07 A New York Times Top Ten Book of the Year and National Book Award finalist, Pachinko is an extraordinary epic of four generations of a poor Korean immigrant family as they fight to control their destiny in 20th-century Japan (San Francisco Chronicle). NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF 2017 * A USA TODAY TOP TEN OF 2017 * JULY PICK FOR THE PBS NEWSHOUR-NEW YORK TIMES BOOK CLUB NOW READ THIS * FINALIST FOR THE 2018 DAYTON LITERARY PEACE PRIZE * WINNER OF THE MEDICI BOOK CLUB PRIZE Roxane Gay's Favorite Book of 2017, Washington Post NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER * #1 BOSTON GLOBE BESTSELLER * USA TODAY BESTSELLER * WALL STREET JOURNAL BESTSELLER * WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER There could only be a few winners, and a lot of losers. And yet we played on, because we had hope that we might be the lucky ones. In the early 1900s, teenaged Sunja, the adored daughter of a crippled fisherman, falls for a wealthy stranger at the seashore near her home in Korea. He promises her the world, but when she discovers she is pregnant--and that her lover is married--she refuses to be bought. Instead, she accepts an offer of marriage from a gentle, sickly minister passing through on his way to Japan. But her decision to abandon her home, and to reject her son's powerful father, sets off a dramatic saga that will echo down through the generations. Richly told and profoundly moving, Pachinko is a story of love, sacrifice, ambition, and loyalty. From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee's complex and passionate characters--strong, stubborn women, devoted sisters and sons, fathers shaken by moral crisis--survive and thrive against the indifferent arc of history. *Includes reading group guide*

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: Socratic Seminars and Literature Circles Marc Moeller, Victor Moeller, 2013-12-13 First Published in 2002. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: Foster Claire Keegan, 2022-11-01 An international bestseller and one of The Times' "Top 50 Novels Published in the 21st Century," Claire Keegan's piercing contemporary classic Foster is a heartbreaking story of childhood, loss, and love; now released as a standalone book for the first time ever in the US It is a hot summer in rural Ireland. A child is taken by her father to live with relatives on a farm, not knowing when or if she will be brought home again. In the Kinsellas' house, she finds an affection and warmth she has not known and slowly, in their care, begins to blossom. But there is something unspoken in this new household—where everything is so well tended to—and this summer must soon come to an end. Winner of the prestigious Davy Byrnes Award and published in an abridged version in the New Yorker, this internationally bestselling contemporary classic is now available for the first time in the US in a full, standalone edition. A story of astonishing emotional depth, Foster showcases Claire Keegan's great talent and secures her reputation as one of our most important storytellers.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: Everything that Rises Must Converge Flannery O'Connor, 1965 Everything That Rises Must Converge (1965) is nine posthumous stories. The introduction is by Robert Fitzgerald.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: The Palace Thief Ethan Canin, 2002-11-23 A collection of four short fiction stories by Ethan Canin in which people find themselves struggling to understand the strange, surprising turns their lives have taken.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: Winter Garden Kristin Hannah, 2010-02-02 Can a woman ever really know herself if she doesn't know her mother? From the author of the smash-hit bestseller *Firefly Lane* and *True Colors* comes Kristin Hannah's powerful, heartbreaking novel that illuminates the intricate mother-daughter bond and explores the enduring links between the present and the past. Meredith and Nina Whitson are as different as sisters can be. One stayed at home to raise her children and manage the family apple orchard; the other followed a dream and traveled the world to become a famous photojournalist. But when their beloved father falls ill, Meredith and Nina find themselves together again, standing alongside their cold, disapproving mother, Anya, who even now, offers no comfort to her daughters. As children, the only connection between them was the Russian fairy tale Anya sometimes told the girls at night. On his deathbed, their father extracts a promise from the women in his life: the fairy tale will be told one last time—and all the way to the end. Thus begins an unexpected journey into the truth of Anya's life in war-torn Leningrad, more than five decades ago. Alternating between the past and present, Meredith and Nina will finally hear the singular, harrowing story of their mother's life, and what they learn is a secret so terrible and terrifying that it will shake the very foundation of their family and change who they believe they are.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: Back Roads Tawni O'Dell, 2001-01-01 NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE Funny and heartbreaking, this New York Times bestselling debut perfectly captures the maddening confusion of adolescence and the prickly nature of family with irony and unerring honesty. Harley Altmeyer should be in college having the time of his life. He should be free from the backwards Pennsylvania coal town he calls home, with its lack of jobs and no sense of humor. Instead, he's constantly reminded of just how messed up everything is... Harley's mother is in prison for killing his father, so he's in charge of bringing up his younger sisters and working two jobs to pay the bills—and that doesn't leave a lot of time for distractions. But lately, he's getting more and more sidetracked by lusting after Callie Mercer, his middle-aged neighbor. As he struggles to keep it together, things begin to spin out of control. Soon Harley finds that as shattered as his family is, there are still more crushing surprises in store. "In Harley, O'Dell has created a hero who's heartbreakingly believable; like Holden Caulfield, he uses caustic humor to hide his pain. Readers will care very much about him and his future, if indeed he has one."—St. Petersburg Times

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: The Road Cormac McCarthy, 2007 In a novel set in an indefinite, futuristic, post-apocalyptic world, a father and his young son make their way through the ruins of a devastated American landscape, struggling to survive and preserve the last remnants of their own humanity

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: How to Steal a Dog Barbara O'Connor, 2009-04-27 Half of me was thinking, Georgina, don't do this. Stealing a dog is just plain wrong. The other half of me was thinking, Georgina, you're in a bad fix and you got to do whatever it takes to get yourself out of it. Georgina Hayes is desperate. Ever since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment, her family has been living in their car. With her mama juggling two jobs and trying to make enough money to find a place to live, Georgina is stuck looking after her younger brother, Toby. And she has her heart set on improving their situation. When Georgina spots a missing-dog poster with a reward of five hundred dollars, the solution to all her problems suddenly seems within reach. All she has to do is borrow the right dog and its owners are sure to offer a reward. What happens next is the last thing she expected. With unmistakable sympathy, Barbara O'Connor tells the story of a young girl struggling to see what's right when everything else seems wrong. *How to Steal a Dog* is a 2008 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year. This title has Common Core connections.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: The Book of Two Ways Jodi Picoult, 2020-09-22 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From the author of *Small Great Things* and *A*

Spark of Light comes a “powerful” (The Washington Post) novel about the choices that alter the course of our lives. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY MARIE CLAIRE Everything changes in a single moment for Dawn Edelstein. She’s on a plane when the flight attendant makes an announcement: Prepare for a crash landing. She braces herself as thoughts flash through her mind. The shocking thing is, the thoughts are not of her husband but of a man she last saw fifteen years ago: Wyatt Armstrong. Dawn, miraculously, survives the crash, but so do all the doubts that have suddenly been raised. She has led a good life. Back in Boston, there is her husband, Brian, their beloved daughter, and her work as a death doula, in which she helps ease the transition between life and death for her clients. But somewhere in Egypt is Wyatt Armstrong, who works as an archaeologist unearthing ancient burial sites, a career Dawn once studied for but was forced to abandon when life suddenly intervened. And now, when it seems that fate is offering her second chances, she is not as sure of the choice she once made. After the crash landing, the airline ensures that the survivors are seen by a doctor, then offers transportation to wherever they want to go. The obvious destination is to fly home, but she could take another path: return to the archaeological site she left years before, reconnect with Wyatt and their unresolved history, and maybe even complete her research on The Book of Two Ways—the first known map of the afterlife. As the story unfolds, Dawn’s two possible futures unspool side by side, as do the secrets and doubts long buried with them. Dawn must confront the questions she’s never truly asked: What does a life well lived look like? When we leave this earth, what do we leave behind? Do we make choices . . . or do our choices make us? And who would you be if you hadn’t turned out to be the person you are right now?

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: Too Much Happiness Alice Munro, 2009-08-25 This stunning collection of stories demonstrates once again why Alice Munro is celebrated as a pre-eminent master of the short story. While some of the stories are traditional, set in “Alice Munro Country” in Ontario or in B.C., dealing with ordinary women’s lives, others have a new, sharper edge. They involve child murders, strange sex, and a terrifying home invasion. By way of astonishing variety, the title story, set in Victorian Europe, follows the last journey from France to Sweden of a famous Russian mathematician. This daring, superb collection proves that Alice Munro will always surprise you.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: Sometimes I Lie Alice Feeney, 2018-03-13 ALICE FEENEYS NEW YORK TIMES AND INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER “Boldly plotted, tightly knotted—a provocative true-or-false thriller that deepens and darkens to its ink-black finale. Marvelous.” —AJ Finn, author of The Woman in the Window My name is Amber Reynolds. There are three things you should know about me: 1. I’m in a coma. 2. My husband doesn’t love me anymore. 3. Sometimes I lie. Amber wakes up in a hospital. She can’t move. She can’t speak. She can’t open her eyes. She can hear everyone around her, but they have no idea. Amber doesn’t remember what happened, but she has a suspicion her husband had something to do with it. Alternating between her paralyzed present, the week before her accident, and a series of childhood diaries from twenty years ago, this brilliant psychological thriller asks: Is something really a lie if you believe it's the truth?

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: All But My Life Gerda Weissmann Klein, 1995-03-31 All But My Life is the unforgettable story of Gerda Weissmann Klein's six-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty. From her comfortable home in Bielitz (present-day Bielsko) in Poland to her miraculous survival and her liberation by American troops—including the man who was to become her husband—in Volary, Czechoslovakia, in 1945, Gerda takes the reader on a terrifying journey. Gerda's serene and idyllic childhood is shattered when Nazis march into Poland on September 3, 1939. Although the Weissmanns were permitted to live for a while in the basement of their home, they were eventually separated and sent to German labor camps. Over the next few years Gerda experienced the slow, inexorable stripping away of all but her life. By the end of the war she had lost her parents, brother, home, possessions, and community; even the dear friends she made in the labor camps, with whom she had shared so many hardships, were dead. Despite her horrifying experiences, Klein conveys great strength of spirit and faith in humanity. In the darkness of the

camps, Gerda and her young friends manage to create a community of friendship and love. Although stripped of the essence of life, they were able to survive the barbarity of their captors. Gerda's beautifully written story gives an invaluable message to everyone. It introduces them to last century's terrible history of devastation and prejudice, yet offers them hope that the effects of hatred can be overcome.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *Forget Me Not* Ellie Terry, 2017-03-14 Astronomy-loving Calliope June has Tourette syndrome, so she sometimes makes faces or noises that she doesn't mean to make. When she and her mother move yet again, she tries to hide her TS. But it isn't long before the kids at her new school realize she's different. Only Calliope's neighbor, who is also the popular student body president, sees her as she truly is--an interesting person and a good friend. But is he brave enough to take their friendship public? As Calliope navigates school, she must also face her mother's new relationship and the fact that they might be moving--again--just as she starts to make friends and finally accept her differences. Ellie Terry's affecting debut will speak to a wide audience about being true to oneself.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *The Mother of All Questions* Rebecca Solnit, 2017-02-12 A collection of feminist essays steeped in "Solnit's unapologetically observant and truth-speaking voice on toxic, violent masculinity" (The Los Angeles Review). In a timely and incisive follow-up to her national bestseller *Men Explain Things to Me*, Rebecca Solnit offers sharp commentary on women who refuse to be silenced, misogynistic violence, the fragile masculinity of the literary canon, the gender binary, the recent history of rape jokes, and much more. In characteristic style, "Solnit draw[s] anecdotes of female indignity or male aggression from history, social media, literature, popular culture, and the news . . . The main essay in the book is about the various ways that women are silenced, and Solnit focuses upon the power of storytelling—the way that who gets to speak, and about what, shapes how a society understands itself and what it expects from its members. The Mother of All Questions poses the thesis that telling women's stories to the world will change the way that the world treats women, and it sets out to tell as many of those stories as possible" (The New Yorker). "There's a new feminist revolution—open to people of all genders—brewing right now and Rebecca Solnit is one of its most powerful, not to mention beguiling, voices."—Barbara Ehrenreich, New York Times–bestselling author of *Natural Causes* "Short, incisive essays that pack a powerful punch." —Publishers Weekly "A keen and timely commentary on gender and feminism. Solnit's voice is calm, clear, and unapologetic; each essay balances a warm wit with confident, thoughtful analysis, resulting in a collection that is as enjoyable and accessible as it is incisive." —Booklist

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs* Chuck Klosterman, 2004-06-22 Now in paperback after six hardback printings, the damn funny...wild collection of bracingly intelligent essays about topics that aren't quite as intelligent as Chuck Klosterman' (Esquire). Following the success of *Fargo Rock City*, Klosterman, a senior writer at Spin magazine, is back with a hilarious and savvy manifesto for a youth gone wild on pop culture and media, taking on everything from Guns'n'Roses tribute bands to Christian fundamentalism to internet porn. 'Maddeningly smart and funny' - Washington Post'

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *Fahrenheit 451* Ray Bradbury, 2003-09-23 Set in the future when firemen burn books forbidden by the totalitarian brave new world regime.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *Long Way Down* Jason Reynolds, 2017-10-24 "An intense snapshot of the chain reaction caused by pulling a trigger." —Booklist (starred review) "Astonishing." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "A tour de force." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) A Newbery Honor Book A Coretta Scott King Honor Book A Printz Honor Book A Time Best YA Book of All Time (2021) A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Winner for Young Adult Literature Longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature Winner of the Walter Dean Myers Award An Edgar Award Winner for Best Young Adult Fiction Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner An Entertainment Weekly Best YA Book of 2017 A Vulture Best YA Book of 2017

A Buzzfeed Best YA Book of 2017 An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, this is New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds's electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. A cannon. A strap. A piece. A biscuit. A burner. A heater. A chopper. A gat. A hammer A tool for RULE Or, you can call it a gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on the sixth floor, on comes Buck. Buck, Will finds out, is who gave Shawn the gun before Will took the gun. Buck tells Will to check that the gun is even loaded. And that's when Will sees that one bullet is missing. And the only one who could have fired Shawn's gun was Shawn. Huh. Will didn't know that Shawn had ever actually USED his gun. Bigger huh. BUCK IS DEAD. But Buck's in the elevator? Just as Will's trying to think this through, the door to the next floor opens. A teenage girl gets on, waves away the smoke from Dead Buck's cigarette. Will doesn't know her, but she knew him. Knew. When they were eight. And stray bullets had cut through the playground, and Will had tried to cover her, but she was hit anyway, and so what she wants to know, on that fifth floor elevator stop, is, what if Will, Will with the gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, MISSES. And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if Will gets off that elevator. Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, Long Way Down is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *Circe* Madeline Miller, 2018-04-10 This #1 New York Times bestseller is a bold and subversive retelling of the goddess's story that brilliantly reimagines the life of Circe, formidable sorceress of *The Odyssey* (Alexandra Alter, *The New York Times*). In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child -- not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power -- the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology, including the Minotaur, Daedalus and his doomed son Icarus, the murderous Medea, and, of course, wily Odysseus. But there is danger, too, for a woman who stands alone, and Circe unwittingly draws the wrath of both men and gods, ultimately finding herself pitted against one of the most terrifying and vengeful of the Olympians. To protect what she loves most, Circe must summon all her strength and choose, once and for all, whether she belongs with the gods she is born from, or the mortals she has come to love. With unforgettable vivid characters, mesmerizing language, and page-turning suspense, *Circe* is a triumph of storytelling, an intoxicating epic of family rivalry, palace intrigue, love and loss, as well as a celebration of indomitable female strength in a man's world. #1 New York Times Bestseller -- named one of the Best Books of the Year by NPR, the Washington Post, People, Time, Amazon, Entertainment Weekly, Bustle, Newsweek, the A.V. Club, Christian Science Monitor, Refinery 29, Buzzfeed, Paste, Audible, Kirkus, Publishers Weekly, Thrillist, NYPL, Self, Real Simple, Goodreads, Boston Globe, Electric Literature, BookPage, the Guardian, Book Riot, Seattle Times, and Business Insider.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *How the Word Is Passed* Clint Smith, 2021-06-01 This "important and timely" (Drew Faust, *Harvard Magazine*) #1 New York Times bestseller examines the legacy of slavery in America—and how both history and memory continue to shape our everyday lives. Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Clint Smith leads the reader on an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks—those that are honest about the past and those that are not—that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves. It is the story of the Monticello Plantation in Virginia,

the estate where Thomas Jefferson wrote letters espousing the urgent need for liberty while enslaving more than four hundred people. It is the story of the Whitney Plantation, one of the only former plantations devoted to preserving the experience of the enslaved people whose lives and work sustained it. It is the story of Angola, a former plantation-turned-maximum-security prison in Louisiana that is filled with Black men who work across the 18,000-acre land for virtually no pay. And it is the story of Blandford Cemetery, the final resting place of tens of thousands of Confederate soldiers. A deeply researched and transporting exploration of the legacy of slavery and its imprint on centuries of American history, *How the Word Is Passed* illustrates how some of our country's most essential stories are hidden in plain view—whether in places we might drive by on our way to work, holidays such as Juneteenth, or entire neighborhoods like downtown Manhattan, where the brutal history of the trade in enslaved men, women, and children has been deeply imprinted. Informed by scholarship and brought to life by the story of people living today, Smith's debut work of nonfiction is a landmark of reflection and insight that offers a new understanding of the hopeful role that memory and history can play in making sense of our country and how it has come to be. Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction Winner of the Stowe Prize Winner of 2022 Hillman Prize for Book Journalism A New York Times 10 Best Books of 2021

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *It's Okay to Laugh* Nora McInerny Purmort, 2017-04-04 NATIONAL BESTSELLER “Thank you for the perfect blend of nostalgia-drenched humor, wit, and heartbreak, Nora.” — Mandy Moore comedy = tragedy + time/rosé Twenty-seven-year-old Nora McInerny Purmort bounced from boyfriend to dopey “boyfriend” until she met Aaron—a charismatic art director and comic-book nerd who once made Nora laugh so hard she pulled a muscle. When Aaron was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer, they refused to let it limit their love. They got engaged on Aaron’s hospital bed and had a baby boy while he was on chemo. In the period that followed, Nora and Aaron packed fifty years of marriage into the three they got, spending their time on what really matters: Buffy the Vampire Slayer, each other, and Beyoncé. A few months later, Aaron died in Nora’s arms. The obituary they wrote during Aaron’s hospice care revealing his true identity as Spider-Man touched the nation. With *It’s Okay to Laugh*, Nora puts a young, fresh twist on the subjects of mortality and resilience. What does it actually mean to live your “one wild and precious life” to the fullest? How can a joyful marriage contain more sickness than health? How do you keep going when life kicks you in the junk? In this deeply felt and deeply funny memoir, Nora gives her readers a true gift—permission to struggle, permission to laugh, permission to tell the truth and know that everything will be okay. *It’s Okay to Laugh* is a love letter to life, in all its messy glory; it reads like a conversation with a close friend, and leaves a trail of glitter in its wake. This book is for people who have been through some shit. This is for people who aren’t sure if they’re saying or doing the right thing (you’re not, but nobody is). This is for people who had their life turned upside down and just learned to live that way. For people who have laughed at a funeral or cried in a grocery store. This is for everyone who wondered what exactly they’re supposed to be doing with their one wild and precious life. I don’t actually have the answer, but if you find out, will you text me?

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *The Story Of An Hour* Kate Chopin, 2014-04-22 Mrs. Louise Mallard, afflicted with a heart condition, reflects on the death of her husband from the safety of her locked room. Originally published in *Vogue* magazine, “The Story of an Hour” was retitled as “The Dream of an Hour,” when it was published amid much controversy under its new title a year later in *St. Louis Life*. “The Story of an Hour” was adapted to film in *The Joy That Kills* by director Tina Rathbone, which was part of a PBS anthology called *American Playhouse*. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *Class Act* Jerry Craft, 2020-10-06 New York Times bestselling author Jerry Craft returns with a companion book to *New Kid*, winner of the 2020 Newbery Medal, the Coretta Scott King Author Award, and the Kirkus Prize. This time, it’s

Jordan's friend Drew who takes center stage in another laugh-out-loud funny, powerful, and important story about being one of the few kids of color in a prestigious private school. Eighth grader Drew Ellis is no stranger to the saying "You have to work twice as hard to be just as good." His grandmother has reminded him his entire life. But what if he works ten times as hard and still isn't afforded the same opportunities that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted? To make matters worse, Drew begins to feel as if his good friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids. He wants to pretend like everything is fine, but it's hard not to withdraw, and even their mutual friend Jordan doesn't know how to keep the group together. As the pressures mount, will Drew find a way to bridge the divide so he and his friends can truly accept each other? And most important, will he finally be able to accept himself? *New Kid*, the first graphic novel to win the Newbery Medal, is now joined by Jerry Craft's powerful *Class Act*.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *Project Mulberry* Linda Sue Park, 2005-04-18 In this contemporary novel, Newbery Medalist Linda Sue Park delivers a funny, lively story that illuminates both the process of writing a novel and the meaning of growing up American. A rich work that treats serious issues with warmth, respect, and a good deal of humor (Kirkus starred review). Perfect for both independent reading and classroom sharing. Julia Song and her friend Patrick would love to win a blue ribbon, maybe even two, at the state fair. They've always done projects together, and they work well as a team. This time, though, they're having trouble coming up with just the right project. Then Julia's mother offers a suggestion: They can raise silkworms, as she did when she was a girl in Korea. Patrick thinks it's a great idea. Of course there are obstacles—for example, where will they get mulberry leaves, the only thing silkworms eat?—but nothing they can't handle. Julia isn't so sure. The club where kids do their projects is all about traditional American stuff, and raising silkworms just doesn't fit in. Moreover, the author, Ms. Park, seems determined to make Julia's life as complicated as possible, no matter how hard Julia tries to talk her out of it.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *Untamed* Glennon Doyle, 2020-03-10 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • OVER TWO MILLION COPIES SOLD! "Packed with incredible insight about what it means to be a woman today."—Reese Witherspoon (Reese's Book Club Pick) In her most revealing and powerful memoir yet, the activist, speaker, bestselling author, and "patron saint of female empowerment" (People) explores the joy and peace we discover when we stop striving to meet others' expectations and start trusting the voice deep within us. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY O: The Oprah Magazine • The Washington Post • Cosmopolitan • Marie Claire • Bloomberg • Parade • "Untamed will liberate women—emotionally, spiritually, and physically. It is phenomenal."—Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *City of Girls* and *Eat Pray Love* This is how you find yourself. There is a voice of longing inside each woman. We strive so mightily to be good: good partners, daughters, mothers, employees, and friends. We hope all this striving will make us feel alive. Instead, it leaves us feeling weary, stuck, overwhelmed, and underwhelmed. We look at our lives and wonder: Wasn't it all supposed to be more beautiful than this? We quickly silence that question, telling ourselves to be grateful, hiding our discontent—even from ourselves. For many years, Glennon Doyle denied her own discontent. Then, while speaking at a conference, she looked at a woman across the room and fell instantly in love. Three words flooded her mind: *There She Is*. At first, Glennon assumed these words came to her from on high. But she soon realized they had come to her from within. This was her own voice—the one she had buried beneath decades of numbing addictions, cultural conditioning, and institutional allegiances. This was the voice of the girl she had been before the world told her who to be. Glennon decided to quit abandoning herself and to instead abandon the world's expectations of her. She quit being good so she could be free. She quit pleasing and started living. Soulful and uproarious, forceful and tender, *Untamed* is both an intimate memoir and a galvanizing wake-up call. It is the story of how one woman learned that a responsible mother is not one who slowly dies for her children, but one who shows them how to fully live. It is the story of navigating divorce, forming a new blended family, and discovering that the brokenness or wholeness of a family depends not on its structure but on each member's ability to

bring her full self to the table. And it is the story of how each of us can begin to trust ourselves enough to set boundaries, make peace with our bodies, honor our anger and heartbreak, and unleash our truest, wildest instincts so that we become women who can finally look at ourselves and say: There She Is. Untamed shows us how to be brave. As Glennon insists: The braver we are, the luckier we get.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: The Things They Carried Tim O'Brien, 2009-10-13 A classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing—it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing. *The Things They Carried* won France's prestigious Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize; it was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: This Tender Land William Kent Krueger, 2019-09-03 INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! "If you liked *Where the Crawdads Sing*, you'll love *This Tender Land*...This story is as big-hearted as they come." —Parade The unforgettable story of four orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. In the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota's Gilead River, Odie O'Banion is an orphan confined to the Lincoln Indian Training School, a pitiless place where his lively nature earns him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee after committing a terrible crime, he and his brother, Albert, their best friend, Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own. Over the course of one summer, these four orphans journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, *This Tender Land* is an enthralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: The Scout Mindset Julia Galef, 2021-04-13 ...an engaging and enlightening account from which we all can benefit.—The Wall Street Journal A better way to combat knee-jerk biases and make smarter decisions, from Julia Galef, the acclaimed expert on rational decision-making. When it comes to what we believe, humans see what they want to see. In other words, we have what Julia Galef calls a soldier mindset. From tribalism and wishful thinking, to rationalizing in our personal lives and everything in between, we are driven to defend the ideas we most want to believe—and shoot down those we don't. But if we want to get things right more often, argues Galef, we should train ourselves to have a scout mindset. Unlike the soldier, a scout's goal isn't to defend one side over the other. It's to go out, survey the territory, and come back with as accurate a map as possible. Regardless of what they hope to be the case, above all, the scout wants to know what's actually true. In *The Scout Mindset*, Galef shows that what makes scouts better at getting things right isn't that they're smarter or more knowledgeable than everyone else. It's a handful of emotional skills, habits, and ways of looking at the world—which anyone can learn. With fascinating examples ranging from how to survive being stranded in the middle of the ocean, to how Jeff Bezos avoids overconfidence, to how superforecasters outperform CIA operatives, to Reddit threads and modern partisan politics, Galef explores why our brains deceive us and what we can do to change the way we think.

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *The Question of Flannery O'Connor* Martha Stephens, 1973

a good man is hard to find discussion questions: *The Person You Mean to Be* Dolly Chugh, 2018-09-04 "Finally: an engaging, evidence-based book about how to battle biases, champion

diversity and inclusion, and advocate for those who lack power and privilege. Dolly Chugh makes a convincing case that being an ally isn't about being a good person—it's about constantly striving to be a better person." —Adam Grant, New York Times bestselling author of Give and Take, Originals, and Option B with Sheryl Sandberg Foreword by Laszlo Bock, the bestselling author of Work Rules! and former Senior Vice President of People Operations at Google An inspiring guide from Dolly Chugh, an award-winning social psychologist at the New York University Stern School of Business, on how to confront difficult issues including sexism, racism, inequality, and injustice so that you can make the world (and yourself) better. Many of us believe in equality, diversity, and inclusion. But how do we stand up for those values in our turbulent world? The Person You Mean to Be is the smart, semi-bold person's guide to fighting for what you believe in. Dolly reveals the surprising causes of inequality, grounded in the psychology of good people. Using her research findings in unconscious bias as well as work across psychology, sociology, economics, political science, and other disciplines, she offers practical tools to respectfully and effectively talk politics with family, to be a better colleague to people who don't look like you, and to avoid being a well-intentioned barrier to equality. Being the person we mean to be starts with a look at ourselves. She argues that the only way to be on the right side of history is to be a good-ish— rather than good—person. Good-ish people are always growing. Second, she helps you find your ordinary privilege—the part of your everyday identity you take for granted, such as race for a white person, sexual orientation for a straight person, gender for a man, or education for a college graduate. This part of your identity may bring blind spots, but it is your best tool for influencing change. Third, Dolly introduces the psychological reasons that make it hard for us to see the bias in and around us. She leads you from willful ignorance to willful awareness. Finally, she guides you on how, when, and whom, to engage (and not engage) in your workplaces, homes, and communities. Her science-based approach is a method any of us can put to use in all parts of our life. Whether you are a long-time activist or new to the fight, you can start from where you are. Through the compelling stories Dolly shares and the surprising science she reports, Dolly guides each of us closer to being the person we mean to be.

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