

Book Discussion Questions: Hattie Big Sky

1. Who was Charlie Hawley, and why did Hattie write letters to him?
2. Why was Hattie living with Aunt Ivy & Uncle Holt?
3. What did Uncle Chester leave to Hattie in his will?
4. How was shopping in Vida in 1917 different from shopping now? What has changed in the last 100 years?
5. Describe Hattie's new house?
6. Why was Chase her "knight in shining armor"?
7. How did Hattie get rid of the wolf? What happened to Violet?
8. Why does Karl have to register?
9. Throughout the book, the author shows discrimination against German people and items. Give some examples. Does this still happen today? (Read second paragraph on page 288.)
10. Who landed at Hattie's house during the snowstorm?
11. What "treasure" for Uncle Chester did Leafie Purvis uncover for Hattie in the barn? Throughout the novel, she finds things in the trunk? Does anything have any monetary value, or it more intrinsic?
12. What was Hattie's first impression of Traft Martin?
13. How did Hattie earn \$15 a month? Was this money an answer to prayer?
14. At the dance, she felt a stronger feeling for friendship for one than love for another. For whom did she feel these polarizing emotions?
15. What happened to Karl's barn? What animals did they lose, and what gift to Hattie give to them?
16. Who rescued Hattie when she collapsed from heatstroke?
17. What was Traft Martin's offer to Hattie?
18. Who attacked Mr. Egbard? Why? Who came to his rescue?
19. What destroyed Hattie's crops? (It only took minutes to destroy the fruits of many months of labor.)
20. On September 11, 1918, President Wilson declared it "Registration Day." What request was being made of American men? What ages were to enlist?
21. Who contested Hattie's claim and under what grounds?
22. What illness struck Perilee and her younger children?
23. What event took place on October 28th— Hattie's 18th birthday?
24. How did Hattie learn about the end of the war?
25. Where were the Muellers going? Why? What gifts did Hattie give them?
26. What did Charlie reveal in his last letters?
27. After losing her claim, what were Hattie's plans?
28. Considering the "loose ends" at the end of the book, what plots might be tied up in the sequel?
29. According to the "Author's Notes," this story is based on her great-grandmother's life. What happened to her great-grandmother's claim? Why didn't she allow the same fate for Hattie? (See the last paragraph on page 288.)