



BOOK CLUB KITS

THIS KIT CONTAINS

- ◆ 6 Regular Hardcover Copies
- ◆ 1 Book on CD

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

GRANDMA GATEWOOD'S WALK BY BEN MONTGOMERY

- 1) Author Ben Montgomery portrayed "Grandma" Emma Gatewood as a strong, resilient women throughout her many journeys in this book. How did these character traits serve her well during her many hikes?
- 2) What challenges did she face in her marriage to P.C. Gatewood? Do you feel that she showed strength and resiliency in her personal life? Can you give some examples?
- 3) What were some of the main obstacles that Emma faced during her first successful through-hike of the Appalachian Trail? Do you feel she was prepared for all of the challenges that were presented to her on this hike? Looking back, what could she have done differently?
- 4) Do you think Emma Gatewood anticipated all of the publicity that arose from being the first woman to hike the full length of the Appalachian Trail? How did she respond to this publicity and the many reporters that asked her for interviews? How did she benefit from meeting other people on the trail? What did she learn for herself? What did people learn from her?
- 5) Many reporters called Emma Gatewood the "Queen of the Appalachian Trail" and asked Emma questions along her journey; however some may feel that she never really conveyed a solid purpose for the walk. Why do you think Emma decided to walk the Appalachian Trail? Do you think she conducted her walks for fame, personal reasons, exercise, or something other? What passages in the book support your ideas?
- 6) In 1955, after she had been gone for nearly a month on her walk on the Appalachian Trail, Emma Gatewood's "children hadn't heard from her, had no idea where she was or what she was doing, but not one of them was worried" (p. 45). Why do you think this was the case? Do you think that times have changed and her unexplained absence would be overlooked in today's times?
- 7) This story depicts not only Emma Gatewood's journey on the trail, but also the journey of America's progression into modern times. What were some of the advancements discussed in this book at the time of her journey? What other types of advancements has our country incurred after Emma Gatewood's time? What types of innovations that exist in our present time could have assisted her on her hikes?
- 8) In your opinion, did Emma adequately prepare for her first successful through hike of the Appalachian Trail in 1955? Were you surprised to find that she had a failed attempt of hiking the trail the prior year? What would you want to bring if you were to take a journey such as this one? Do you believe that you would have succeeded on such a venture?
- 9) What were some significant results, events, or movements that occurred in our country as a result of Emma Gatewood's walks and the publicity that she brought to the Appalachian Trail?
- 10) What will you take away from this book in reading the stories about Grandma Emma Gatewood's life, her inspirational hikes, and all of her achievements?