

## **LOST in LUMBY**

### **Reading Group Guide**

#### **About this Guide**

The questions and proposed topics for discussion that follow are designed to support and enhance your group's discussion of Gail Fraser's engaging novel, Lost in Lumby. Comments and suggestions are invited by the author at [www.lumbybooks.com](http://www.lumbybooks.com).

#### **For Discussion**

1. Lost in Lumby once again brings us to Main Street, America, where small communities matter, families are the nucleus of support, and a good quality of life can be found. Is Lumby just an escape to a way of life that we have permanently lost, or does that world still exist? If so, can we find it only in rural towns or can those same core values and everyday priorities exist in a city as well?
2. There are a lot of truths withheld and secrets kept in the novel – Kay's secret about having another child, Pam's true reason for asking Janet to Montis, Mark not telling Pam about Alan Blackstone, and Brian's decision to print Turn the Paige. Although most would agree that "honesty is always the best policy," were any of those secrets justified? Are there times when withholding the truth, or even changing it, is a better alternative?
3. Pam frequently feels "alone in the world" because (she thought) she had no siblings. But does having a brother or a sister, whether it be one or many, always change a person's life for the better, and always make you feel less "alone?"
4. Regarding siblings, Duke and Alan Blackstone are complete opposites with no love lost between them. Given their fragmented relationship, do they still have a responsibility to each other? What obligation do family members have to each other when there is little commonality between them?
5. When Dennis Beezer discovers that Brian had gone behind his back to publish Turn the Paige, a storm erupts. Brian's reason was to save the family business from financial ruin, while Dennis thought it was more important to maintain high moral and literary standards. Was one more right than the other? And then Gabrielle plays a key role in facilitating the differences between father and son and reaching a compromise. Do you think she felt comfortable in that position or would she have preferred to have more strongly backed her husband or her son? If so, which one?

6. Although we never meet Paige Petrosyan, she seems to elicit a strong, almost visceral distain by many. Today, the worlds of fame and media are filled with the likes of Paige, who are only famous for their narcissism, ego and selfies. Nonetheless, they have tens of millions of fans. But why? What do these celebrities offer that make them so popular among their fan base?

7. From the onset, Sister Megan appears to be attracted to Alan Blackstone. Is that natural for someone who has given her life to God to question her commitment, or does she just represent how we all go through life reexamining our decisions, especially when fate shows us a different path we could have taken?

8. At the beginning of Lost in Lumby, Caroline Ross is trying to recover from the pain and humiliation of her husband's unexpected abandonment. Did Aaron come into Caroline's life too soon? And is her hesitancy to become involved with Aaron wise or foolish given the difficulties she faced (and ignored) in her marriage with Kai?

9. Girls night out in Wheatley is always a memorable one for Pam, Brooke, Caroline and Mac. They would all agree that their shared friendship helps define who they are and supports who they will become. Do you have a similar circle of friends who you couldn't live without?

10. On a few occasions, Mark's unbridled optimism and enthusiasm run amuck, resulting in some hearty laughter. But how does his passion make such a positive impact on Pam, his friends, and Lumby?

### **Between Lumby and God**

**The seventh novel in the Lumby series**

**Coming 2018**