

# LUMBY ON THE AIR

## READERS GUIDE

1. Family reunions are often an interesting blend of joy and stress, especially around the holidays. Do you have any secrets for having a successful family gathering? What have been your experiences?
2. One theme that runs through the book is that what we fear will happen is frequently much worse than what eventually *does* happen—we see this with Lynn as she enters into a new relationship and with Elaine as she struggles to discipline Jessica. Could fearing the worst be a self-fulfilling prophecy, or is it merely human nature to put up defenses when we are faced with uncertainty?
3. Pam voices her disapproval of Kay's activities out of fear of losing her mother. How can we, as Kay advises, simply "let go" of something that's very important to us? Does Pam ever do that successfully?
4. Raising a teenager in these times is tremendously challenging given the technology to which they have access. Discuss some of those challenges and how parents can use the technology to help a teenager grow into a responsible adult.
5. Elaine Walker appears to be trapped: she is too panicked to move forward because of what happened in the past. Have you ever felt unable to do what you knew you needed to do? How did you eventually overcome your resistance or the barrier that was in your way?
6. What are some ways one might handle an abrasive, overly competitive personality like Carter Reed? Could Mark have done anything different to soften Carter's impact on the reunion?

7. When Pam and Lynn walk down to the barn together, Pam unexpectedly blurts out exactly what she thinks of her sister-in-law. Does she do the right thing in being so honest with Lynn, or should she keep her feelings to herself? How do you know when it's right to openly speak your mind about your feelings toward another person?
8. Lynn's cat Coco plays an important role in her life by offering her hope and companionship. Chuck suggests that sometimes an animal can provide more comfort than another human. Do you feel that's true? Discuss the relationships you've had with your pets.
9. Both Lynn and Chuck are aware that their relationship is going to be short-lived, but they are able to embrace the moment and simply appreciate each other's company for the time they have together. Do you have any fond memories of a brief encounter that helped you along in life?
10. The county fair is a community event that the residents of Lumby enthusiastically embrace. When was the last time you attended a fair? Are there other public events that bring your community together?
11. Hank may be the only one who is less than thrilled about the fair, but he puts aside his own feelings and becomes an ambassador for Lumby, greeting all those who enter the fairgrounds. What can we learn from his behavior?
12. Kay Eastman and Robert Day are healthy, vibrant senior citizens who make the most of each day. They also both feel tremendously blessed to have found love a second time. Have you ever found your soul mate? How many times have you found love?