

THE PROMISE OF LUMBY

READERS GUIDE

1. Dr. Campbell has worked very hard her entire life and, at the beginning of the book, has her eyes set on retirement that will begin with a long vacation in Greece, after which she will move closer to her grown children. Do you have a similar dream and where would you go if given the time and resources?
2. The veterinarian clinic is a prominent setting in the novel, and the animals play a key roll in people's lives. Is that true in your family or in your own town?
3. The importance of honesty and truth-telling is a central theme in the story. Are there times when choosing not to disclose the full truth is understandable, even preferable? And, have you ever been in a position similar to Tom Candor's, wanting to withhold details for fear of being judged or misunderstood?
4. Hank is always a supportive, benevolent character who seems to be nonjudgmental. Is there anything the town residents can learn from him?
5. Are Jimmy's and Dennis's reactions to Tom's background justified? What are their different reasons for so quickly and, some would say, harshly judging Tom's actions?
6. Do you think Jimmy's time as town mayor is coming to an end? If so, who would you like to see as mayor of Lumby?

7. Brother Michael's innocent comment about snow monkeys that the monks were given as gifts, which receives wide distribution via a magazine article, produces unintended consequences. Have you ever faced unintended consequences from something you've done?
8. Do you like the idea of uniting Saint Amand and Saint Cross Abbeys, and how do you think the nuns will change the monks' community?
9. How does Mark's unrestrained excitement and occasional impulsiveness both help and hurt his relationship with his wife and what they are trying to accomplish at Montis Inn?
10. What is your opinion of Andre and Christian? Is there still some mystery about them, and would you like to see them in future books? Do you think Andre is committed to staying at Montis?
11. Initially, Tom and Mac seem to share common interests, but they are quite different people. Do you think they have a chance for a successful long-term relationship and do you hope to see them married?
12. Brooke and Joshua consider the possibility of moving away from Lumby, as does Mac. How should couples balance different priorities and desires, and when should they uproot their families?