



One Cabin in the Heyday of Northwoods Resorts

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Return to Wake Robin

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Marnie Mamminga uses a very descriptive writing style. How does this enhance the overall voice of the narration?

What does the sunrise up north represent to Mamminga?

The Moodys' cabin had a sign that read, "Here there is no time." What techniques does the author use to evoke this feeling of time standing still on Big Spider Lake?

The Oatmans had wealth and luxury in Illinois yet chose to move to northern Wisconsin. What did they sacrifice to have their new life? Have you ever felt this strongly about a place?

How did buying a sailboat in a time of financial difficulty aid the Oatman family in the years that followed?

Why did Mamminga choose to include poems in the book? What do they add to her story?

Each chapter highlights a different person's perspective on Wake Robin. How did this enhance the book overall? Did you like how the book was organized?

The chapter "Heading Up North" is split into five acts. Compare the family in each act in terms of their interactions with one another and their general characteristics.

One reviewer noted that the author used the various essays to tell a "coming-of-age story". Would you agree or disagree?

Describe how Mamminga changes over the years and the role Wake Robin played for each generation.

Even in a consumer-driven electronic age, Wake Robin still has a magical aura for the family. What does this book tell us about the importance of preserving the meaningful places in our lives?

What did Dick Seitz bring to Camp Moody that made or kept it special, and why did this mean so much to Mamminga as a little girl?



What did the story about Tommy Seehuetter, the fishing guide, show about the resorts and their residents?

Why do you think Mamminga included the stories about the resort workers? Did they effectively enhance the story?

In what ways is the family dock symbolic of the Northwoods?

Contrast your work experience with Mamminga's while working as a cabin girl. She referred to the work as an "honor"; have you ever felt this way about work? What did that say about her feelings about the lodge?

Mamminga's family still returns to Wake Robin each summer, yet things have changed. How has the resort maintained its allure?

In the epilogue, the author raises a question about Wake Robin: "What is it that kindles our spirits and makes us long for it even in our dreams?" Explain the emotional significance behind this question.

