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Nightwoods Discussion Questions

1. Why do you believe that Frank and Delores had such a fascination with fire? What, if anything, was Frazier trying to represent?
2. Do you believe that this novel could have worked without the romance formed between Luce and Stubblefield? Why was their relationship essential to the text?
3. Chapter 2 in section II describes Lit and his willingness to remain a “Lawman,” and not fall to the temptations of corruption. It also explains how meticulous he was and how he was “judging,” or keeping a close eye on Bud. Why do you believe his assumptions, or conclusions were so incorrect?
4. On page 144, Luce discusses the disappearance of Lola. She states how: “She remembered that some people in town speculated pretty urgently, with no evidence whatsoever, that Lit had killed Lola and buried her up on the mountain.” Why do you believe Frazier included this detail within the novel?
5. The “Black hole,” reappears numerous times within the novel, (pgs 71, 248). What does it symbolize? Why is it referenced more than once?
6. When Luce was raped in the beginning of the story she reported the crime to Lit. Lit’s response to her accusation was: “I’ll tell you that this sort of charge is hard to make stick. You say one thing, he’ll say something else”(p. 76). Why do you feel he responded this way? What message do you believe Frazier was trying to convey?
7. Many of our novels have a Feminist Criticism. This is once again prevalent within in this novel as well. Why do you think this is so critical to the novel?
8. On page 196 Luce states: “Children rediscover their parents’ wisdom when they finally become adults themselves;” how critical of a point was this in the novel?
9. Frazier ends the novel not informing the reader of Bud’s fate. Does this work for you? How would you complete the novel if you were the author?
10. Which theme within the novel was most critical to you as the reader? Why?