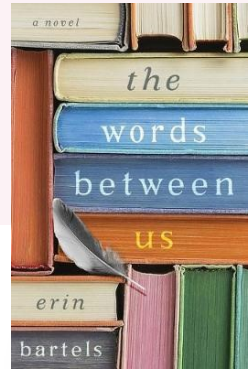




PARTICIPANT GUIDE

THE WORDS BETWEEN US
BY ERIN BARTELS



"The only things I had ever created that had cost me some essential part of myself were the poems I'd written for Peter..."

ROBIN WINDSOR



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1

Q. Which part of *The Words Between Us* did you enjoy most? Why?

2

Q. On page 59, Robin asks Peter if he has found himself in the books they're reading. Which character did you relate to most? Why?

3

Q. Robin, in her loneliness, says, "Books are filled with people" (p50). Who is your favourite 'book friend'?

4

Q. Robin believes she's a disappointment to God (p52). Can you relate to how she feels?

5

Q. Robin is concerned with what others think about her. She tells herself not to care, but she does. How can this unhealthy habit be broken?

6

Q. Robin is quick to assume the worst of Peter when her identity is discovered. This leads to 18 years of bitterness and separation. How might this have been avoided?

7

Q. Robin spends nine years of her life wandering in the wilderness, mute, with Dave, her surrogate grandfather. During this time, she begins to heal, learns about the local flora and fauna, and slows down enough to enjoy life again. Are you (or have you been) in a wilderness season? How did God use this season?

8

Q. Robin realizes that she has been too consumed with her trauma and grief to pay attention or take time to meet others in theirs (p319). How can we become more alert to the needs of others, even while suffering or enduring our own hardship?

9

Q. Betrayal and forgiveness are themes in *The Words Between Us*. Discuss Robin's journey of forgiving her parents. Why can it be so challenging to forgive someone who has betrayed us?

10

Q. Why are some books memorable, powerful, and life-changing, while others are not?



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