



# PARTICIPANT GUIDE

THE LADIES OF THE LAKE  
BY CATHY GOHLKE



*"The Ladies of the Lake do swear this day of our graduation from Lakeside Ladies Academy... that we shall stick by one another through thick and thin, maintain a healthy correspondence from wherever in the world our paths might wander, and be always at the ready to come to the aid of any sister among us in need. To the best of our ability, we vow to meet here, in this hallowed gazebo, every two years to reclaim and celebrate our sisterhood. Nothing but death will free us from these vows. Signed and sealed."*

**SUSANNAH, RUTH, DOROTHY AND ADELAIDE**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Q. The Ladies of the Lake are all unique with vastly different personalities. Which character, Addie, Dot, Susannah or Ruth, did you most relate to? Why?

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Q. Mrs Simmons befriends Addie in her time of need. How does her companionship help Addie in her struggles? Do you have a "Mrs Simmons" in your life?

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Q. At the story's beginning, Addie is a sad, frightened and lonely young orphan. How does she grow and change? Discuss the quote, "And God brought Rosaline Murray to life. She rose from the ashes" (Portia).

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Q. Susannah says, "Women need friends. Real true friends. And we're the best we've got." Forgiveness and redemption define the Ladies of the Lake and their friendship. However, for most of their lives, their friendship was often toxic. Discuss how the friendships blossomed and healed through faith and time.

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Q. After the Halifax Explosion, Rosaline (Addie) and Portia support one another through their grief. How was Portia's friendship with Rosaline instrumental in her healing and decision-making?

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Q. Fear, envy and selfishness were the driving force behind many of Addie and Dot's actions. Can you sympathise with the paths they chose to take? How might circumstances have changed if they had chosen to act out of love instead?

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Q. How did the Great War impact the community? What prejudice was uncovered?

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Q. Ruth says, "Some scars we carry on the outside, but some we carry deep within. Both can be devastating. We're just better at hiding the inside scars from the world." Discuss the visible and hidden pain the characters endure. Why does hiding pain often make it worse?

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Q. Do you have long-term friendships or childhood friends you're still close with? Would you say they are friendships of redemption and forgiveness?

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Q. Have you read Anne of Green Gables? If so, what do you love most about Anne?

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