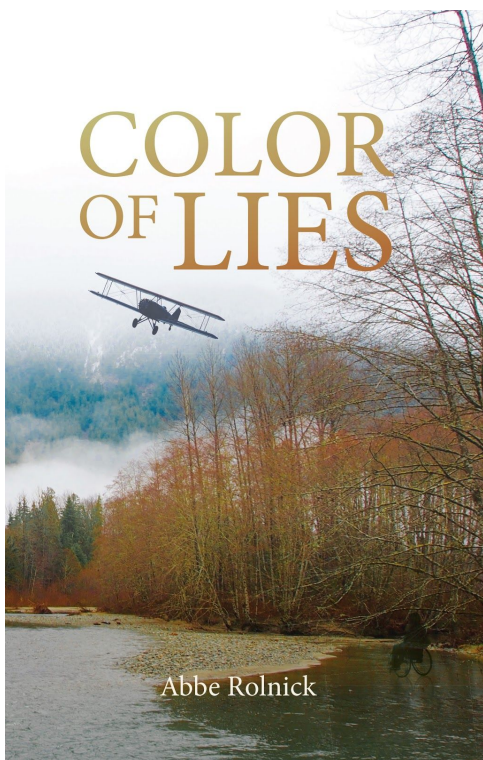


Reading Group Question and Topics for Discussion

Color of Lies



1. What are your “tells”, small indicators that let the observant know what you feel? Can you describe the various “tells” of each character mentioned in the first chapter?
2. Why would someone destroy a flower? What is the difference between a mean person and a bully?
3. When is it okay to tell a white lie? Does JoAnne lie to others? What are lies of omission – who do they protect?
4. Russell knows the history of the community and more. Matters of the heart act as his guide or barometer in all his decisions. Give some examples of his version of truth and how his philosophy keeps peace within the community.
5. Are there Molly McCains’ in your life? How do you protect yourself from intentional manipulation? How does conflict avoidance perpetuate the occurrences of bullying?
6. Love and family circumstances, powerful motivators, dictate in part the path of an individual. How have Maria and Molly used their circumstances?
7. Toxic land, toxic behavior, accumulate. What lessons did the community learn in hindsight?
8. What truth does JoAnne refuse to see and what lies does she tell herself to survive?
9. Prejudices, based on judgments, tend to skew facts to create a sense of truth. How are judgments used, both negatively and positively, in relationship to the “upper valley”?
10. Could Spencer T have acted differently? Can understanding bypass a lie or truth? When does forgiveness begin?