

Making Waves --Discussion

1. If you had to describe Marguerite Westing in three words, what would you say? How are you like Marguerite? Different? How does the title *Making Waves* fit her?
2. Marguerite went for what she wanted in so many ways and let nothing stop her in the process. Why, then, did she continue to allow Roger Gordon to court her? When have you allowed a relationship to continue that you knew wasn't going anywhere or was not good for you? Why is it so hard for us to break off those relationships?
3. The desire for parental approval is a theme in this book for Marguerite, Trip, and even Roger. Which character do you feel was driven by it the most? How did their parents' approval affect their decisions? How has the approval of your parents impacted your life? Do you know any adults who still long for that kind of validation?
4. Even though times were changing, so many things were still closed to women in 1895. Was Marguerite's subterfuge in securing a way to learn to sail justified? Why or why not? How do we sometimes justify "little white lies"? Is lying ever okay?
5. Marguerite and her personal maid Lilly had a special friendship. What challenges do you think this caused the two of them? Have you ever had a friendship that your parents did not condone or have your children had any you did not approve of? How did you handle it? What class barriers remain today that would influence relationships?
6. The setting of Lake Manawa in Iowa provided a unique place for this story. Could this story have unfolded anywhere else? Why or why not? What about the setting did you enjoy most? Are there any little known places in your own community that would make a unique setting for a story?
7. Compare and contrast Marguerite's father and Trip's father. Which father would you rather have? According to many researchers, our "picture" of our heavenly Father is often formed from our relationship with our earthly father. In view of that, in what areas would Marguerite and Trip struggle in reference to their personal God "picture"? How has the image of your earthly father impacted your image of your heavenly Father?
8. Marguerite says she can't "live in a vanilla world, when she's a strawberry girl." How did the author bring out how vanilla Roger Gordon was? What would have happened to Marguerite if she'd settled for the vanilla life he offered? In what ways do we settle for less than the "strawberry world" God has planned for us?

9. Truth is a major theme in *Making Waves*. What damage have lies caused in the lives of Marguerite and Trip? What damage did Marguerite's lies do? The first verse mentioned in the book is 1 John 3:18, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." How does truth show one's love? Can you think of an example of this from your own life?
10. Marguerite's biggest lie was the one she told herself. How are we tempted to do the same? Are those lies as damaging as lies we tell others?
11. The word truth appears in the scripture 228 times (NIV), and God describes Himself as the true God. John 4:24 states "God is spirit and His worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth." (NIV) Clearly, He values truth. How do spirit and truth go hand in hand? Why are they equally important? Why is more emphasis placed on the worshipping in spirit than in worshipping in truth? Which comes easier to you?

Refreshment ideas for a book club meeting: Marguerite has a penchant for strawberry sundaes. They'd make a delicious treat.