

Reading Questions Guide

As you read *Montana 1948*, consider these questions in preparation for your lively discussion of the book (as part of WOW) on Wednesday, September 17, 2008.

1. Whose story is this, David's or Wesley's?
2. As a family, how do Wesley, Gail, and David communicate? How does David learn about the important issues his family and community face in 1948?
3. Why did Wesley choose to follow his father's career path rather than to pursue his own interests?
4. Men are the key characters in the novel, yet women play influential roles. How are the roles portrayed in the novel? What is the book saying about gender and power?
5. Wesley goes from initial denial of his brother's transgressions to moral absolutism about bringing him to trial. What events cause this change in ethical perspective?
6. Both Wesley (as sheriff) and Frank (as physician) are bound by the ethical dictates of their respective professions. How do those professional ethical dictates affect their actions?
7. How are Wesley's choices about justice challenged and how does he respond to the challenges?
8. Race (Indian/White), class (Hayden dynasty), and power (doctor/sheriff) are all components of the story. How do these elements interact to affect people's behavior?

