

The Fire in Ember

Discussion Questions

1. When John saved Ember (Bert) from a hanging, she deceived him by not telling him her gender. How did you feel about this aspect of her? Have you ever deceived someone to save yourself from the unknown?
2. John lived to take care of his mother and brothers. He also believed in upholding the law. What do you think drove John to carry the burden of responsibility alone?
3. Leah was a single parent. Have you ever been a single parent? What challenges were the most difficult?
4. Ember was afraid to tell the truth about herself. Why do we often keep our real self secret?
5. John had a dream, but he couldn't reveal it. Why? What about you? What is stopping you from reaching out for your dreams?
6. Ember possessed the gift of music and song. How did that affect her relationship to the Timmons family? Do you think the story would have changed without this gift?
7. Evan believed he loved Ember too. A love triangle has the ability to show the best and the worst of those involved. How do you think Evan, John, and Ember were forever affected? Why or why not?
8. Did Leah have a favorite son? If so, which one? If not, why?
9. Wirt loved Leah and wanted her to marry him. What obstacles stood in their way?
10. Betrayal sears the heart. Do you think John overreacted to Ember leaving the ranch with her brothers? How would you have handled the situation?
11. Our best friends may not tell us the truth about ourselves. If you were Ember's best friend, how would you have advised her about Simon?
12. John thought he might lose Ember when she was shot. What do you think went through his mind while he waited to see if she would live?