

Hattie's Place

Study Questions

1. How do you relate to Hattie's initial reaction to Will's letter, when she told herself, "I will not be the object of anybody's gossip or pity"?
2. What does the dinner conversation in Chapter 3 reveal about the parenting styles of Elizabeth and Charles? Were they similar or different from your parents?
3. What do you think of the advice Reverend Fitts gave to Hattie when she went to school to sign her contract? "New teachers are often quite eager to be liked by the students and tend to be quite lenient in managing student behavior. Students sometimes mistake kindness for weakness and will take advantage of such situations."
4. Do you agree with the way Hattie handled the bullying situation with Tom Givens? Was Reverend Fitts right in saying that in demonstrating to Tom how it feels to be a bully, she behaved a bit like a bully herself?
5. How do you think the teaching profession has changed since Hattie's day? What elements are similar today?
6. To which of the characters in *Hattie's Place* do you most relate?
7. Is the ending satisfying to you? How would you change it if you could?
8. How does historical fiction like *Hattie's Place* remind you of the saying "the more things change, the more they remain the same".