



### **All Together Now—Questions and Topics for Discussion**

- 1.) A major theme of the novel is community—both in the town of Bridgeford and the choir. In what ways does finding, and fostering, a sense of community change the novel’s characters? Who benefits the most from the sense of community the choir instills?
- 2.) Tracey uses music and singing as a means to escape the drudgery of her day job. Bennett sees the choir as a way to get a fresh start and inject some spontaneity into his life. What role does music play in the lives of the book’s other characters? How is music a part of your own life?
- 3.) As they recruit new members a divide develops between the choir’s old and new singers. Why are the group’s long standing members so opposed to change (especially when it comes to selecting new songs)? What makes an old routine so satisfying and difficult to abandon?
- 4.) Why do you think Tracey hides her past? Why is she initially reluctant to join despite her love of music? How does running the choir change Tracey over the course of the book?
- 5.) What is it about singing with the choir that forces Bennett out of his comfort zone? Why is venturing outside of your comfort zone at once both scary and exhilarating?
- 6.) Can ALL TOGETHER NOW be said to have a villain? Who, or what, is it?
- 7.) Bennett changes tremendously over the course of the novel. Do you think Bennett’s former wife, Sue, has regrets about the demise of their relationship when she sees the change the choir has brought about in him? Does Bennett have regrets about their relationship?

- 8.) A key to any good choir performance is the perfect set list. What are your favorite songs to hear sung by a choir? What makes these songs particularly well suited to a choral performance?
- 9.) Tracey has a special bond with Billy after raising him as a single parent. How does their relationship compare to other parent/children relationships depicted in the novel?
- 10.) ALL TOGETHER NOW begins with an accident that sets the plot in motion and reverberates throughout the book. In what other ways does the novel skirt the line between comedy and tragedy?