DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The novel is in a unique format that mixes different points of view, poems, and images. How did this enhance the story?

2. Why do you think the use of spoken word poems is so important? What effect does it have when you’re reading?

3. How do you think Loretta’s outlook on working for Clem and “winning” at picking cotton change when she found out that Clem went back on his promise to the Little family?

4. Loretta cried when she found out that she would have to stop going to school so that she could work more. Why do you think she felt strongly about having to stop? Why was the value of working higher than the value of education?

5. Why do you think someone would poison the crops and animals on the Little land? In what ways could someone else benefit from the Little’s lost?

6. Sharecropping plays a large part in the beginning of the story. What is sharecropping? Why do you think it was so important to the Little family? How did it help them along the way?

7. Each member of the Little family experiences a moment where they question everything they thought they knew. How does each family member deal with it? Do you think they dealt with things in the right way? How would you react?

8. Between Roly and Aggie’s points of view there is a section titled “Between the Between” that tells the story of Jim Crow. Why do you think the author placed this section at this point in the book? Why was it important to know this story? What did you gain from that information?

9. Aggie said, “There is nothing bad about being bold” (p.137). Do you agree with her? What are some pros and cons to being bold?

10. Roly told Loretta and Aggie that they were foolish, that going to Indianola was a mistake and that they didn’t need to register to vote (p.168). Why did he say that? Do you agree or disagree with him?