



FLATIRON
BOOKS

The Hazel Wood Reading Group Guide

Welcome to the Reading Group Guide for *The Hazel Wood*. Please note: In order to provide reading groups with the most informed and thought-provoking questions possible, it is necessary to reveal important aspects of the plot of this novel—as well as the ending. If you have not finished reading *The Hazel Wood*, we respectfully suggest that you may want to wait before reviewing this guide.

1. Consider Alice's narration. How would you describe Alice? What did you take away from Alice's experiences? What do you feel Alice has gained by the end of the novel?
2. What were some of the references you caught to classic children's literature in the novel?
3. Were any of your own favorites mentioned? How do you think these references influence the story?
4. How are Finch and Alice different? How are they similar? Why do you think they bond so intensely when they're thrown together?
5. When did you first expect that the stories and characters from Althea's book might be real?
6. Ella keeps the secret of Alice's childhood a secret from her. What do you think of this choice? If you were Ella, would you have taken Alice from her story? Would you have told her the truth? When?
7. How would you describe the Spinner?
8. How did you feel when you finished the novel? Were you surprised? Satisfied?
9. What five words would you use to describe *The Hazel Wood*?