

The Mitford Years Book IX: *Light from Heaven*

1. Father Tim has rather unsavory encounter with a man who's set up rustic housekeeping on Meadowgate Farm. Were you surprised at the way Father Tim treated the trespasser? When is a person beyond forgiveness? On their second chance? Third? Fourth? What are some actions that are, despite Jesus's teachings, unforgivable by mere humans?
2. The Flower sisters are an interesting group to say the least. What are the commonalities you share with your siblings or other close family members? And what differences?
3. There are examples in *Light from Heaven* of people dealing with grief in unexpected ways. Father Tim hopes a series of jokes will make the perfect eulogy. Esther Bolick throws herself into baking to help her through the grieving process. What interesting sendoffs have you seen in your own life for departed friends or loved ones? Do you have unusual ways of dealing with sadness?
4. Do you think Sammy is going to become as well-adjusted as Dooley? Why? How are the two brothers similar? How are they different?
5. Cynthia always has an answer to the question "what don't you love?" Make a list of things you don't love. Now do the same with things you do love. Which list is longer? Which was easier to compile?
6. Louella tells a story about her and Miss Sadie's brief quarrel over a box of chocolates. Miss Sadie wants to save them but decides it would be better to go ahead and enjoy them. What treats or special experiences in your life have you saved for a later time, only to wish, when the time comes, that you had gone ahead and enjoyed them sooner?
7. Rooter wants to learn sign language so he can talk to Clarence. Using the Internet or a book, teach yourself a few signs to share with the group. Father Tim employs a similar strategy in his knack for talking to just about anyone on his or her own level. How is Father Tim different when talking to Agnes versus Jubal?