



Discussion Questions

The Wives of Henry Oades by Johanna Moran

1. On the voyage to New Zealand, Mrs. Randolph cares for Margaret as she miscarries. Can bonds between women form in hours?
2. Why do you think Mr. Oades misidentified Mim Bell as his wife?
3. Have expectations of Christianity changed since the time of Margaret and Nancy?
4. What kept Margaret strong in captivity? Was Henry justified in remarrying?
5. What was the turning point for Henry's acceptance of his family's loss?
6. Why were Margaret and her children treated coldly on their return?
7. Are the marriages in this story more about survival or love?

8. When do Margaret and Nancy begin to form a connection?
9. Which wife endured the most hardship? Who did you empathize with more?
10. What could have been a better solution for this family-then or now?
11. Are there modern equivalents to the Daughters of Decency?
12. How does the Maori premonition at the start relate to the story?
13. What is the main theme of this novel? Were you surprised by the ending?