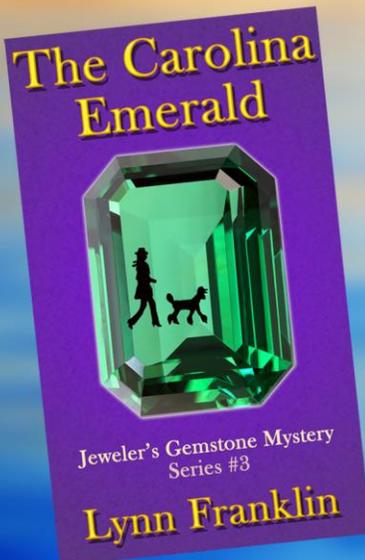


Book Club Discussion Questions



A 60-Year-Old Mystery A One-of-a-Kind Emerald

In a small town steeped in secrets,
a romantic weekend
turns deadly.

LynnFranklin.com

<p>Cooper accused Kim of harboring prejudices against his family. Have you ever had an experience where your thoughts or behavior were dictated by existing (known or unknown) prejudices? Were you surprised? How did you deal with it?</p>	<p>In the Prologue, Kim witnessed a class of children shun a boy dressed in old clothes. As a child, did you see discrimination based on income, race, social class? How did that influence your own behavior toward the child? How did the experience affect you as an adult?</p>
<p>What were your thoughts when Kim first visited the Hicks family? Did you fear for Kim's life? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Do you think private land owners have a right to deny rock hounds and archeologists access to their land? Why or why not?</p>
<p>Though we in the U.S. believe we don't have a socio-economic caste system like the one in India, Kim witnesses several episodes of upper class discrimination against the lower classes. What advice would you give to the Hicks family for overcoming this prejudice?</p>	<p>Even though Sheriff Spitz was a minor character in the story, the author chose to not depict him as a stereotypical redneck cop. What do you think of the author's decision? How did that decision affect the story?</p>
<p>Who were your favorite characters in the book? What traits attracted you to those characters?</p>	<p>Were you surprised to learn that emeralds can be found in North Carolina? Have you hunted for gemstones in the United States?</p>
<p>What was your favorite gem legend in the story?</p>	<p>Cleopatra's favorite gem was emerald. Do you have a favorite gemstone? What draws you to it?</p>
<p>Several characters in The Carolina Emerald have unusual hobbies. Kim goes rock hounding whenever she has time. Rita Thompson learned to do quilling. Jan Mayr dances with her dogs. Do you have an unusual hobby? What drew you to it? How does your hobby enrich your life?</p>	<p>Despite his diminutive size, Jack the papillon helps his wheelchair bound mistress remain independent. There are also dogs who assist people who can't see or hear, veterans suffering from PTSD, children with diabetes or epilepsy. Discuss the role of service and support dogs in society. Why do you think dogs are so responsive to helping humans?</p>