

READER'S GUIDE for *Hog Wild* **by Cathy Pickens**

1. When readers look for a new book, they often check the blurbs on the jacket and then they read a couple of paragraphs to see if the author's voice is one they find likeable. Others get recommendations from librarians, bookstores, friends, and reviews. Some are returning to spend time with characters they know. What drew you to read *Hog Wild*?
2. Of the new characters she met in this book, which ones did you find most likeable? Which did you find least likeable? Does Avery need a boyfriend?
3. Great-aunt Letha is something of an agitator, and she certainly could be considered a force to be reckoned with. Maybe you have someone in your family who resembles her in the way she states her mind. How do you take his or her statements? How do you feel about Letha and her role in the family?
4. Does Avery do a good job setting the arguments for ecology versus economics, for preserving culture versus welcoming newcomers? Does she accurately express the values of both sides? Do you agree or disagree that any building on land changes that land? Is the change usually beneficial or harmful? How is this change best managed?
5. Was there a part of the book that was especially funny or thought-provoking? What was the most startling part of the book? Why?
6. Did you find Avery's run-in with the rookie cop as she was driving up the mountain road humorous? How did you feel about the rookie and the way the encounter ended?
7. From the descriptions of the scenery and the people in the book, could you picture the events and the characters?
8. If you could visit one of the characters, which would you choose? Why? Was there a character that you would not want to know?
9. In a note to Avery, Maggy Avinger said, "I wish I could've known you earlier, Avery Andrews. I think we would've been friends. You remind me of myself—or, rather, who I wanted to be, who I think I was inside. You're a fighter. I hope you'll be happy back in Dacus. I just hope you'll be happy." Avery felt the note read more like a curse than a blessing. Why do you think she felt that way?
10. How did you feel about the angel statue's final resting place? Why?

Prepared by Catherine Anderson

