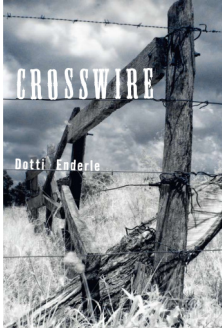


DISCUSSION GUIDE



Crosswire

**by Dotti Enderle
(Boyd's Mills/Calkins Creek)**

1. The title of the book is *Crosswire*. How did you envision the crosswire on the fence? How is it significant to the story theme?
2. Why were fences so important to farmers and ranchers in 1883? Why do you think they chose barbed wire to fence their properties?
3. Why were the fence cutters destroying fences? What did they stand to lose? Why were the weather conditions significant?
4. Why do you think the fence cutters were specifically targeting Jesse's farm?
5. Why was it important for a country boy to use a gun? What would he shoot?
6. Why was Jesse afraid of guns? What eventually gave him courage?
7. How do you think Old Leather Dog was symbolic to the story? Why would the author choose to make him a hairless dog?
8. Ethan never told Jesse the reason he took him to the saloon? Why do you think he wanted Jesse to come with him?
9. Where do you think Ethan went after Papa threw him out?
10. Why was Jackson being so secretive? Why didn't he carry his gun?
11. What do you imagine happened to Ethan after the book ended? What about Jesse?