

Discussion questions for the novel: *The Astronaut From Bear Creek*

Please feel free to print and handout.

-Spoiler Alert- If you haven't finished the novel, the questions below will spoil the ending.

1. What type of book did you think you were getting into when you first started reading?
2. When you first meet Jim and he interacts with Stanton, what did you think of him?
3. Abbey is broken when she arrives at the inn. Talk about what her life would be like if Jim hadn't of let her stay.
4. Jim did not teach Abbey about her science project, instead he showed her how to learn and what does that really mean and why did he do that for a girl he didn't even want around in the first place?
5. Did Jim need Abbey? Why or why not?
6. Discuss Kelly Mae White's character. Talk about her situation and what would have happened to her if she hadn't of met Jim and Abbey.
7. The villain in this story is Miss Philhours. Discuss her role in the story and how she treated Abbey.
8. The author's favorite chapter to write was the career day chapter. Did you enjoy that chapter and do you believe it was a turning point for Abbey and or Jim?
9. Discuss the pilots, Tom and Jerry. Did you enjoy their bit parts in the story?
10. What did you enjoy most about the book? Did you have a favorite part?
11. Discuss the underlying theme of Peter Pan. Did it have anything to do with the story? Why did Jim and Mallory have a connection to the story?
12. Some readers thought that Jim and Kelly would end up together, did you have this premonition only to not have it come true? What else did you think would happen that did not come true?
13. Did you see the death of Jim coming? What did you think about his final request to see Abbey in the play?
14. How well will Abbey be taken care of due to the emails that Jim sent out before his death?
15. What do you take away from this story? What does it mean to you?

A few facts: Nick Allen Brown cried his face off while writing and editing the book. This book took one year of research and one year to write and edit. The cover went through 34 different designs. The story Charlotte's Web was originally used as the play Abbey would perform in, but when a phone call was received from a snobby and ridiculous representative of the book, Nick shelved the idea and pursued the story of Peter Pan. While writing the book, Nick would imagine 1990's version of Kevin Costner as Jim Mayfield.