

Reader Group Guide for

Honor Redeemed

by Christine Johnson

1. In this day and age of quick travel, it's difficult to imagine the difficulties that Prosperity would have faced during a journey of nearly 1,500 miles. Can you think of a few challenges she would have had to endure? What effect might these difficulties have on her?
2. At the beginning of the story, Prosperity places her entire trust in one man, only to have that trust shattered. Have you ever experienced similar betrayal? How difficult was it to overcome?
3. Prosperity feels adrift after losing her dream of marrying David. To what does she cling for stability? Why does she choose that?
4. Likewise, David flounders in his new role. What gives him stability? Why did he choose that? Where do you find stability when life throws turmoil your way?
5. David hopes he can change Aileen. How often do we step into relationships thinking we can change a person? Why do we have this need to change others? What effect does it have on the relationship?
6. For all of Dr. Goodenow's fine character traits, Prosperity cannot summon love for him. Do you think she should have given him more of a chance? Why or why not?
7. The cause and spread of disease was not well understood in 1852, and many remedies were passed down through hearsay. Incurable diseases raised great fear. How did Elizabeth, Prosperity, and Dr. Goodenow react to the arrival of yellow fever? What made each character react so differently? Consider contemporary diseases that have generated fears of epidemic, such as Ebola and bird flu. How did the general populace react and deal with the threat?
8. Why does it take David so long to accept Oliver as his son? Do you think his aloofness was understandable? Why or why not?
9. Forgiving those closest to us can be very difficult. Prosperity struggles to forgive David. What do you believe tipped the balance so she could finally forgive him?
10. Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation. How do they differ? What allowed Prosperity to reconcile with David?
11. Prosperity never attends the soiree. What do you think she did with the dress the doctor commissioned for her? Why?