

A Reader's Guide

for *Flamingo Moon* by Carolyn Holm

*For more information about the book and the author,
please visit www.carolynholm.com*

In order to provide readers with good discussion questions, it is necessary to reveal important plot developments in the book. If you have not yet finished reading *Flamingo Moon*, you will want to hold off reading this guide until you have!

1. Honey Barkin sets out on a life independent of her family, continually resisting their pull, even when she desperately needs their help. Why is she so determined? Is this just normal behavior for a young person or do you see something else going on here?
2. In an episode of NPR's *This American Life*, Ira Glass points out that every musical begins with a wish song. What is Honey's wish?
3. Honey and Franny consider their "family" to be unconventional. Do you agree? How do they compare with what is a conventionally considered a nuclear family?
4. Honey wonders how different her life might have been if she had grown up with a dad, a brother, a boy cousin. Do you think this would have made a difference? Would it have made a difference if she had not had Franny as a high-achieving sister?
5. Who do you suspect is Honey's father? Do you think it matters?
6. What do you think of the author's device of alternating chapters between Honey's voice and Vivian's voice?
7. Do you like Vivian? What qualities of hers move you to like or dislike her? How does her personality add to the story?
8. Rose says everyone needs a Plan. Does Honey have one? Does Danny? Does Eddie? Or Vivian?
9. Vivian says Honey "never sees the world the way it really is." Do you agree with Vivian?
10. Honey depends on others for power (Franny as an inspiration, others to take care of her) but sometimes she finds power within herself. How does the source of that power evolve?
11. What is Honey's worst fear? Do you think she has real reason to have that fear?
12. What do you think of the way Honey makes up her mind to keep the baby?

13. Honey's friends – Sandy, Carlos, Sanjay, and Evie and Frank – each bring something to her life. What does each provide for her?
14. Of Honey's family and friends, who struck you as a memorable character, and why?
15. How do you feel about Honey's attitude about the \$5 she earns from Larry in the video store?
16. Honey says "Wouldn't you know it, I finally found something I could do well, and it just sucked that what I was good at was being homeless." What does she mean by this?
17. Were you satisfied by the book's ending? If not, what would have been a more powerful or realistic ending?
18. What do you think Honey will do next?