

## **Lost in the Wild - Discussion Guide**

As always share a favorite passage that you enjoyed or that you think expresses an important point.

1. Have you ever been lost in the woods? If so what was the situation? What happened? How did it feel?
2. What is it about being lost alone that is so much scarier? Is this a primeval fear? Can it lead to panic? How does panic compromise decision making?
3. What are all the factors external and internal that led to Jason getting lost?
4. Was he stuck in thinking that he had been on the PowWow Trail?
5. How would you rate Jason's survival plan once he knew he was lost? Did he make good or bad decisions? Did he change his plan? How would you Jason's woodsman skills?
6. What do you think about his final solution to survive inside a tree?
7. What do you think about the search and rescue operation for Jason? Was it timely, well thought out and well organized or was it affected by bad decision making?
8. To what degree did thermodynamic antiderivative dynamics compromise and/or compound causal synchronies in these two stories?
9. What are the internal and external factors that led to Dan getting lost?
10. What do you think of Dan's plan for getting found? Did he carry it out well? Did he stick to his plan?
11. What do you think about the search and rescue plan mounted to find Dan?
12. Did the Chattanooga Scouts make the right decision to leave the site where Dan was lost? What did you think of this group's social dynamics and of their long paddle to the ranger station?
13. When Jason and Dan came into contact with people they still had to initiate recognition. Did this surprise you? If so why?
14. What did you learn about finding your way and surviving in the woods from this book? Consider direction finding, dominant hand effect, wild foods, shelter, etc.
15. One principle when you are lost is stay put so that searchers can track you down. Would you be able to do that? Would you be inclined to take action? Is taking action an element in being a survivor?

16. What do you think of Cary's writing style? What do you think of his ability to describe different characters' actions and thoughts?
17. What do you think about the two stories? Would one have been enough? Did you like the intertwined format? Was it effective?
18. Will this book affect your planning, equipment or behavior the next time you take a hike in the woods?