



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

# A Lantern in Her Hand

By Bess Streeter Aldrich

1. Bess Streeter Aldrich is noted for doing extensive research for her books. Do you think that is the case with *A Lantern in Her Hand*? If so, in what areas?
2. Do you notice a change in the dialect as you read through the book? If so, how do you account for this?
3. Why do you think a university would ask social studies students to read *A Lantern in Her Hand*?
4. What are the universal themes you find in *A Lantern in Her Hand*?
5. From what outside literary sources does Aldrich quote?
6. Some have considered *A Lantern in Her Hand* a biographical work. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Explain your position.
7. How does Aldrich appeal to the reader's senses? Give examples.
8. *A Lantern in Her Hand* is set in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Do you think Aldrich stays true to the time and people? If so, how?
9. Will's death is not explained in any detail. Why?
10. Discuss the differences and/or similarities between the three main adult women who have trekked to Cedartown: Abbie, Christine Reinmueller, and Sarah Lutz.
11. What keeps Will and Abbie on the land even though so many others have returned to the East?
12. Did it seem realistic to you when Will found the two beets and a few of the early saved potatoes, and they "feasted" on these with Henry and Sarah Lutz?
13. Aldrich has been called a romantic realist, a painter with pencil and word, much as Norman Rockwell was with brush and palette. What are some examples of this from *A Lantern in Her Hand*?
14. Aldrich was one of the most popular writers in the country from the 1920s to the mid 1950s. How does this book support that popularity?



University of Nebraska Press

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