



Maria's Awakening

Book Club Questions for
Maria's Awakening
by Ella Rea Murphy

Ella Rea Murphy

- 1. What is the relevancy of the title, Maria's Awakening, to the story?**
- 2. Is the question, 'Do you remember your first love,' central to theme of the story? If so, how?**
- 3. How does Maria's personality, intelligence, background help her fit into the new awareness women were feeling due to their emancipation through the 19th Amendment?**
- 3. Compare and contrast the two main male characters, Bill and Ed, as to their personalities, backgrounds, educational objectives.**
- 4. What are the reasons Maria is drawn to both men?**
- 5. Why are they interested in Maria?**
- 6. Which man is the most suitable for Maria because of her personality and background?**
- 7. How does the author show the cultural standards that existed in the 1940s for both men and women? Where are they most noticeable?**
- 8. In what ways did the university contribute to the social mores of the times?**
- 9. Compare and contrast the communication methods used in the 1940s and today?**
- 10. Compare and contrast the wide array of educational resources available to students today with the resources in the 1940s.**
- 11. Compare and contrast the relative isolation from the real world with the students at Iowa State and the students of today. How would have the availability of media benefited the students, then?**
- 12. Has the ability to feel for one's fellow man increased or decreased from the 1940s? If so, how, and why?**