

Follow the River
Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe the style, or the voice, in which James Alexander Thom tells his story? Do you find it realistic or stylized? What does it add to the overall effect of the story?
2. Did you feel the characters were realistically portrayed? If not, was the author trying to make them realistic, and why did he fail? Did the male author draw realistic male and female characters?
3. Discuss William Ingles' decision to flee rather than fight during the Indian raid.
4. Discuss why the Indians killed some of their victims while allowing others to live.
5. Chief Wildcat offered Mary the opportunity to go with him and be "the mother of his children." The French man, Goulart, also showed an interest in Mary. How would her life have differed had she decided to stay with either of these men?
6. Before their escape Mary and Ghetel had spoken about living together upon their return to Draper's Meadow. What factors altered this outcome and do you agree with Mary's decision?
7. Discuss the river as both protagonist and antagonist to Mary and her survival.
8. When William and Mary reunited they barely discussed their baby daughter. No search party was sent to look for her. According to the author's notes their son, John did not mention the baby's existence. What are your thoughts on this?
9. There were many incidents of kidnapping of white settlers during the French and Indian War. Do you believe Mary Ingles survived her ordeal because she was unique or was her story common to others? Discuss your reasons why or why not?