Lassoing the Sun
by Marks Woods

1. Have you ever visited a National Park? Discuss your own experience with the National Park System.

2. The author describes the loss of his mother throughout the book and the role that the National Parks played in his grieving process, have you ever found comfort in nature?

3. In the book, Wood’s states “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” How does this sentiment apply specifically to environmental and historical conservation?

4. Did you think this book read more like a memoir or more like traditional non-fiction? Did you like/dislike the more personal nature of some of the chapters?

5. “If you spend a few hours in a national park, you check it off a list. If you spend a few days, you develop an attachment that lasts a long time, maybe even a lifetime. If you spend more than that, you become an advocate, a defender, an evangelist.” Do you agree with this statement?

6. Did you have a favorite chapter of the book? Which of the author’s park visits was most memorable to you as the reader?

7. As the book’s subtitle suggests it is about a year in America’s National Parks, however the book is about much more than that. If you could give the book another subtitle what would it be?

8. Discuss the author’s attempts to expose his daughter to nature and recreate his fond childhood memories of visiting the parks for her childhood.

9. After reading this book do you want to visit any of the National Parks discussed in Lassoing the Sun?

10. Would you recommend others read this book?

Discussion questions by D. King