

Lord of the Mountain
Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of the story, what is Nate Owens determined to escape? Why?
2. Nate tells us that the town of Bristol is divided, like he is. What does he mean by this? Do you have ways in which you feel divided?
3. Nate's father is troubled. Why? How does he respond? When you are troubled, what are some ways that you respond? Which ways seem helpful? Which ways don't seem to help?
4. Nate's mother is also troubled. How does she respond? How does her response affect Nate?
5. What does Nate see in Gray and Gray's family? Why is he drawn to them?
6. Why is Nate so determined to meet Ralph Peer and learn about recording? How do you think Nate's life would have turned out differently if Peer had not come to Bristol?
7. What do you think Nate sees in Sue Dean? What does she see in him? What are some ways in which they helped each other?
8. Why does Nate decide to leave home? Do you think it's a wise decision? What are some of the risks and dangers he faces?
9. What does Dolly do to help Nate? Why do you think she does it? Who are some of the people who have stood by you when things were tough, and how did they help?
10. Describe the people Nate met when he arrived at the Carters' house. Which of them did you like best? Why?
11. Describe the way A.P. Carter searched for songs. Do you think it was right for him to use the songs to make money?
12. Describe Esley Riddle and his role in A.P.'s search for songs. What difficulties did A.P. face by traveling with Esley? What advantages did he gain?
13. What was your favorite place that A.P., Esley, and Nate visited? Why?
14. How do you think Nate felt when he heard his father sing "Lord of the Mountain"? How do you think his father felt? his mother? Arnie? Sue Dean?
15. Some people have said that this story is about finding home. Do you agree? Using specific examples, explain why or why not.