**Raymie Nightingale Discussion Prompts**

**Chapter 1**Raymie admired 'the girl in the pink dress' for admitting out loud that she was too terrified to go on.  What does this tell us about Raymie?

"I'm sorry.  I betrayed you."  Raymie feels this is worth repeating.  She will bring it up repeatedly in the next several pages.  Why do you think this resonates with her?

**Chapter 2-7**

Louisiana realizes she's filled with feathers, regrets, and fears.  She then asks a question to the other girls about whether they have ever realized that everything depends on them.   Why does this resonate with Raymie? Why does her soul expand as a result?

**Chapter 8**  
Beverly doesn't seem to be letting the fears get to her, but she does exhibit anger. Why do you think Beverly reacted with anger when Raymie confided in her about Raymie’s dad leaving their family?

**Chapter 9**Mr. Staphopoulos, Ms. Sylvester, and Mrs. Borkowski all provide Raymie with stability. What is it about each of them that provides this stability for her?

**Chapter 10**Why did the words, "Good-bye, Raymie," matter so much to her?

You will notice that Raymie repeatedly recognizes how light affects her experience.  One of those instances is when Mr. S's whistle reflects sunlight and there appears a sort of halo around it/him.  What could this light represent?  How might this be related to Florence Nightingale?

**Chapter 11**  
"Clarke Family Insurance.  How may we protect you?"  Why is this comforting to Raymie?  How might this be related to Florence Nightingale?  
  
**Chapter 12**  
Raymie can't see how such a horrible, depressing book could possibly be related to a 'bright and shining path'.  How would you answer this for her? Figuratively, what might light represent in times of tragedy? If Raymie understood this – how might it help her?

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**Chapter 13**  
Notice Mr. S gives her objectives – concrete step-by-step objectives of what one needs to do.  It keeps her focused and grounded.  Why do you think it comes up repeatedly in the novel?  
  
Isabelle asks Raymie what her purpose is.  Besides the literal answer, “To read a book to you,” what do you think her true purpose for being there?  
  
**Chapter 14**At the end of the chapter, Isabelle says the trick is to never stop moving.  How might this be a life lesson for Raymie?

**Chapter 22**  
On page 112, the open door to the bird cage makes her sad.  Why do you think so?

**Chapter 25**Marsha Jean is revealed to be a fictional figure.  What does she represent?  Why did the grandma create her?   
  
Raymie takes the grandma's plea to protect Louisiana seriously.  She asks herself a tough question at the end.  What does this question make you wonder about?  
  
**Chapter 26**  
What are your thoughts about the end of chapter 26 and the lines, "Beware the brokenhearted," and, "That's all of us, though, Granny, isn't it?"  
  
**Chapter 28**

Why do you think Raymie keeps wondering/asking if we could see stars in the middle of the day if we are in a deep hole? How is this related to Florence Nightingale?

**Chapter 30**

Raymie’s soul is ‘all aglow’ after Beverly tells her that they’re all in this together. What does this tell us about Raymie’s wishes and desires?

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**Chapter 31**

It is probably a little hard for Raymie to understand that the world goes on, despite all the tragedies and heartache. Why might this be an important lesson for her to learn?

Raymie is feeling lost. Louisiana and Isabelle both tell Raymie that she must keep moving. Before, the open door of the bird cage makes her sad. Now, she goes through the open door again. What does the open door represent?

**Chapter 38**

Florence helped those who have fallen on the “battlefield of life”. How might this be related to Raymie?

**Chapter 39**

Raymie realizes that “not only does she not want to win the contest, she wants Louisiana to win.” Why do you think she realizes this now?

Why do you think happiness washed over Raymie?

**Chapter 43**

At the end of the chapter, it is evident that Louisiana (and the others) are not just sad over Archie. She asks the tough question: What will become of us? What does that question make you wonder about? What theme(s) has emerged in this story?

**Chapter 45**

Mrs. B’s voice spoke to her with her last piece of wisdom. Before, it was “Phhhttt” (what did that mean?) or “Why does the world exist?”…. which makes one feel like the world is uncontrollable. Why does Mrs. B’s voice now say that this is something Raymie can do?

What does Raymie understand? In what way has she become “Raymie Nightingale”?

**Chapter 49**

Archie comes back. Why does Ruthie say this isn’t a miracle? What might this say about solving other problems in life?

**Chapter 50**

Her dad did see Raymie in the newspaper. Why do you think the author avoids a happy ending here? How is it still a happy ending?