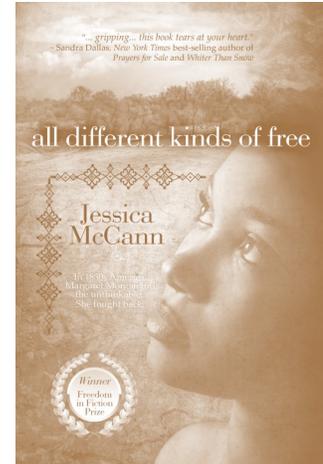




All Different Kinds of Free

by Jessica McCann



Reader Guide and Book Club Questions

1. Margaret noted early in her story that there are all different kinds of free and later that there are all different kinds of bondage, too. How do you think Margaret's experiences shaped her beliefs about what freedom truly means?
2. Emma matured dramatically, under dramatic circumstances, during the course of just a few years. What events in your own childhood were turning points in your maturity?
3. Were you surprised to learn that slaves were routinely bought and sold in Washington, D.C.? Why or why not?
4. Do you consider the Supreme Court's ruling in *Prigg v. Pennsylvania* to have been an endorsement of slavery? Or was it simply a defense of the U.S. Constitution?
5. How do you think the court case impacted the national dialogue about state's rights and federal power in the years before the Civil War? Do you see any similarities in national dialogue taking place today?
6. When Widow Ashmore told Jim the story about a bird that dropped its twig in the pond, what do you think she was really trying to say to him?
7. Jim's relationship with the widow evolved from one of interdependence to one of self-reliance and empowerment for them both. Do you think he and Mrs. Ashmore had become genuine friends? Do you think he missed her when he left Maryland?
8. When Ed Prigg learned Mrs. Ashmore had freed her one remaining slave, he was livid and vowed revenge on Margaret Morgan. Why do you think Prigg was so angry? At what or with whom was he angry?
9. Why do you think Margaret took Hope's son with her when she escaped? What might you have done?
10. The author chose to write Margaret's voice in present tense. How did this technical decision affect the story's urgency and pacing? Did it allow you to connect more closely to the main character? How might your response have been different if the entire story had been told by a narrator in past tense (as the other chapters were written)?
11. How has slavery and its abolition affected the character of our country? What does Margaret's life and her story tell us about the importance of civil liberties? How many other "Margaret" stories do you think exist that have never been told?

