

***The Good Spirit of Laurel Ridge* by Jesse Stuart Discussion Questions**

(Page references are to the hardback version published by McGraw-Hill Book Company, copyright 1953, 263 p.)

1. Did you like the book? If so, what was your favorite part of the book?
2. If not, why not?
3. Has anyone here ever visited the Appalachian region of Kentucky? Tell us about your experiences.
4. Who was the most likeable character in the book? Who was the least likeable? Who was the most interesting?
5. Can we learn anything from Op's philosophies on life? Some examples:

I never was to a doctor but twice in my life....There's a weed a-growin' on Laurel Ridge fer every ailment of the body. The Old Master has a purpose fer every weed and flower He's created! (p. 91)

I sometimes chaw a little light burley. But cigarettes is coffin nails. Allus believed it. (p. 91)

[In response to Alf, talking about he worries about something happening to his car.]
That's easy. Ye shouldn't own a car. Use yer legs! (p. 92)

Many times in the past he had had this same feeling – that the world was a-movin' too fast fer him. So he took a chew of root and thought about the things he understood. (p. 95)

6. Op talks a lot about using herbal medicines. What does this say about his character? Why did the author include so many specific remedies?
7. What did you think about the character of Jack? How does someone like Jack get along in society today?
8. What did you think about the character of Alf? Why did the author add him to the story?
9. Did any thing happen or was anything said in the book that stuck with you?
10. Do you believe in sperets?
11. Any comments about the way the book ended?
12. Are there any other observations you'd like to make, or any questions you would like to ask?