

Discussion Questions for *Seneca Falls Inheritance* by Miriam Grace Monfredo

(Most questions taken or adapted from http://us.penguin.com/static/rguides/us/seneca_falls_inheritance.html)

1. Did you like the book? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. Did you like the characters? Did you find them believable?
3. Did you find the dialog in the story realistic?
4. What did you think of the plot line development? How credible did the author make the plot? Did the plot take turns you did not expect, or did you find it predictable?
5. Did the author convey the era well? Did it feel like the author did her homework?
6. The word “inheritance” represents different concepts to individual characters. What does inheritance signify to: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jeremiah Merrycoyf, Rose Walker, Nell Steicher, Glynis Tryon?
7. How does the 1848 Married Woman’s Property Act stands at the center of what befalls Rose Walker?
8. Edwin Vail wanted to marry Rose Walker, once she was divorced, even if she did not collect her inheritance. Why does she pursue the inheritance? How does her status as a potential heiress victimize her?
9. The mid-19th century’s rapid technological advances are viewed by some rural townspeople as having a direct, negative impact on their lives. What was Constable Cullen Stuart’s concern over the new Colt revolver? What are the implications of the newly invented farm equipment bought by Karl Steicher?
10. What was the connection between the women’s rights movement and the abolition movement in the 19th century? Why would working for the abolition cause prompt women to agitate for change in their legal status?
11. At the Women’s Rights Convention of 1848, James Mott presided and Frederick Douglass defended the suffrage plank. Why did those two men accomplish what “the women themselves could not”? Can you draw any parallels to our late 20th and early 21st century world? Are there situations today where a position is seen as having more strength and/or validity when a man is presenting it?
12. The fourth resolution of the Declaration of Sentiments reads as follows:

Resolved, that the women of this country ought to be enlightened in regard to the laws under which they live, that they may no longer publish their degradation by declaring themselves satisfied with their present position, nor their ignorance, by asserting that they have all the rights they want.

When Glynis heard that, why was she reminded of Lydia Abernathy? Why does Lydia become less satisfied with her position as the novel progresses?
13. What might a 21st century woman do in Daisy Ross’s place when confronted by a husband’s alcoholism and abusive behavior? What were some of Daisy’s constraints? Do any of those same constraints exist today?
14. At the Women’s Rights Convention of 1848, Glynis wonders if the convention will alter women’s perceptions of themselves. From the 21st century viewpoint, has it altered those perceptions? Or has it failed to do so?
15. Any comments about the way the book ended?
16. Do you want to read the next book in the series?
17. Are there any questions you would like to ask?