

Discussion Questions for *A Town Like Alice* by Nevil Shute
Galesburg Public Library Tuesday Book Club
November 2006

1. Did you like the book? If so, what was your favorite part of the book?
2. If not, why not?
3. While talking to the narrator, Jean says:

People who spent the war in prison camps have written a lot of books about what a bad time they had....They don't know what it was like, *not* being in a camp.

This comment really struck me. Any thoughts about this passage?

4. Did any thing that happened or was said in the book stick with you?
5. When Joe gets caught stealing the chickens, the Japanese soldier who was given a chicken by Jean is punished by the Japanese for "participating" in the crime. When he gets sick later, as the only guard for the women and children, the women nurse him. What do you think about this turn of events?
6. The author uses crucifixion as a plot device. What did you think about this?
7. What do you think about Noel's attitude toward Jean?
8. Any comments about the way the book ended?
9. In 1998, Random House's Modern Library published two lists of 100 Best Novels. The list voted on by readers included *A Town Like Alice* at number 17. What do you think about that? Would you vote to include *A Town Like Alice* on your personal list of best novels?
10. Has anyone here ever been to Malaya or Australia? Tell us about your experiences.
11. Are there any questions you would like to ask?