

### Discussion questions for Together Apart

1. Together Apart is written in alternating points of view. Hannah, then Isaac. Why might the author have chosen this approach for the story? In your opinion, did the alternating point of view enhance the story or detract? Why?
2. Hannah and Isaac survived a horrible blizzard and were forever changed by the experience. What might their young lives have been like if the blizzard had never happened?
3. Why did Isaac choose to remain at Eliza's, even though it meant his movement and personal freedom was severely restricted?
4. Why was it important to Hannah that she regain her father's trust and approval?
5. If you could write a new final chapter for Together Apart, set five years in the future, how would you imagine Hannah and Isaac's lives? Would they be married? Where would they be living? How would they be earning their living?
6. In what ways were Hannah and Isaac's lives different from your own? In what ways were they similar?
7. One reviewer thought that Eliza Moore should have taken on a more "motherly" role with Hannah and Isaac, offering more advice and assistance. Why do you think the author chose to limit Eliza's intervention? How might Hannah and Isaac have benefited from Eliza's more hands-off approach?
8. In 1888, women did not have the right to vote. It was women like Eliza who fought to change that. Except for a few states, women were not allowed to vote in national elections until the 19th Amendment to the constitution in 1920. Why do you think lawmakers were so hesitant to bestow equal rights on women?
9. Why were some of the townspeople uncomfortable having the Tinka family living in their midst? Ignorance? Fear of difference? Resistant to change? As a society, are we guilty of this even today?
10. Dru's mother used her social status as the banker's wife to wield power and control over the woman in Prairie Hill. Do you know any people like that, a young person or an adult? Have you, like Dru, decided not to "follow along" but to think for yourself?