

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA ALUMNAE BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
DECEMBER 2019 – “THE SNOW CHILD” BY EOWYN IVEY

1. What do you believe happened to Faina in the end? Who was she?
2. Jack and Mabel’s relationship is a key storyline throughout *The Snow Child*. How did you view their progression, and what role did Faina play in that?
3. The book closely depicts a couple who have suffered the devastating loss of a baby. How did this contribute to your view of the story?
4. *The Snow Child* takes place in rural Alaska in the 1920’s. What are your thoughts on the “way of life” that came with the homestead? Is that something you would be able to do or would have ever been interested in?
5. Throughout the book, Esther and Mabel form an unexpectedly close friendship. How do you think this friendship changed Mabel? Have you ever had a friend like Esther in your life?
6. In what ways does Faina represent the Alaskan wilderness? Did you enjoy the book’s depiction of the nature in that setting?
7. What was your favorite moment in *The Snow Child*? What was a moment that surprised you?
8. The first time Garrett sees Faina in person is when he spies her killing a wild swan. What is the significance of this scene?
9. Death comes in many forms in *The Snow Child*, including Mabel giving birth to a stillborn infant, Jack shooting a moose, Faina slaying a swan, a fox killing a wild bird, Jack and Mabel slaughtering their chickens and Garrett shooting the fox. Why is this one of the themes of the book and what is the author trying to say about death?
10. Were you satisfied with the ending of *The Snow Child*? Why or why not?