

Reading Guide

The Adventures of Tally-Ho

Elementary

- 1** Who is your favorite character? Why? What makes him or her so great?
- 2** Does anyone do something you would like to try doing?
- 3** Were there any problems in the story? How were they resolved?
- 4** Describe two different places in the story. How did they make you feel? Would you ever like to visit a place like that?
- 5** Is there any part of the story you would like to remember forever? Why?

Secondary

- 1** If you were reading the story to a child, which character would you narrate most true to life? Why so?
- 2.** Children's books tend to simplify conflict and resolution. Is that healthy for children? Would there be positive ways to draw out subtleties in real life while reading? Or would that ruin the story?
- 3** The natural setting can create dream-like qualities in children's books. How might that assist children in processing the real world? Would photos have the same effect as paintings or other drawings?
- 4** If a child has never experienced the natural world as Tally Ho does, can he or she still relate to the characters and bridge the events to their personal lives? Would an adult need to do this? Would it be helpful to make the story more meaningful?
- 5** If you were to create your own children's story, what would you use to help create the characters—real life facts, fantasy, talking animals, or something else?

Adult/Book Clubs

- 1** The father is depicted in the story rather than the typical central mother figure. Is there still a sense of her presence? What does the father figure add to the story?

2 The siblings treat each other in a supportive, nurturing manner, which isn't always the case in real life. How might that affect young children's thoughts and feelings?

3 Though conflict resolutions might not always be neat and perfect, the story maintains an emotional calm equilibrium. How might adults draw out real-life conflicts in contrast?

4 Adults reading the story to children unfamiliar with farm settings might have to explain aspects of farm life, leading to later learning experiences. Are the characters still relatable? Might a child equate the animals' emotions with humans? Does a distinction need to be made? How could it be handled sensitively without equalizing the two?

5 Do the stories of Tally Ho offer opportunities for follow-up discussions and further investigation? What might they be?

Paperback/Journal Reflections

1 What were my favorite stories as a kid? Why did I love them so much?

2 Did anyone read to me when I was young? Do I feel I missed something? Are there any children I could read stories to now?

3 Children's stories often touch the unconscious in profound ways. What do the stories of Tally Ho mean to me? What emotions do they bring to the surface?

4 What do I find most attractive in the Tally Ho stories? How can I apply this insight to my real life?

5 How does the combination of childhood, the natural world, and faith in God and angels play in my mind? What do I really believe about a supernatural world?