

Book Discussion Questions  
*Mariano's Crossing* by David M. Jessup

With which character do you most empathize, and why?

If you could meet any character in this book and ask him or her one question, who would it be and what would you ask?

What drives Medina, and what obstacles, external and internal, stand in his way? How do his character traits, both strengths and weaknesses, affect his choices?

How does John Alexander change during the course of the book? What motivates him, and how does this motivation affect his choices?

What priorities direct Takansy toward the choices she makes? How does her past influence her choices?

Medina, Takansy and John Alexander have different points of view when it comes to understanding Lena's needs. Whose view did you find most compelling? Least compelling?

Have you ever experienced a dilemma similar to Lena's, of wanting to please different people you care about? How were your choices different than hers?

The poem at the front of the book mentions "Joy's trick." What is Joy's trick, and how does it apply to each of the characters?

What role do landscape and setting play in the story? What did you learn about the period and setting that you didn't know before? Were you caught up in the story's time and place?

What is your favorite scene in the book, and why? What major emotion does the story evoke in you as a reader?

At what points in the book were you most curious to find out what happens next?

What do you think the book is about? What are some of the book's strongest themes?