



## Discussion Questions for *The Key to Extraordinary* by Natalie Lloyd

After her mother dies, Emma begins receiving strange messages from her town's most famous ghost. Now Emma must unravel a family secret in order to solve a centuries-old mystery and find a legendary treasure with the power to save her town and her family.

1. The women in Emma's family are called "wildflowers" because "no matter how difficult the circumstance, and no matter where the wind carried them, they bloomed, bold and bright." In which ways does Emma embody these characteristics?
2. Emma says her brother Topher can read people like a story. What does she mean and what does this reveal about his character? Do you know someone who can also do this?
3. Discuss the role family plays in this story. What are the characters' views on family and how does this influence their choices? How does family affect your choices?
4. Settings like the graveyard, woods, and hills are central to the story's plot. How do these settings shape the plot and the characters that live there? What are their histories?
5. Emma's Mama says that "fear is just a flashlight that helps you find your courage." How does this apply to Emma? Has fear ever helped you find your courage?
6. Discuss the scar on Emma's face. Why does she have the scar, and how do others perceive it? Discuss the different reactions Earl and Beretta have to her scar and what their reactions reveal about their character.
7. How does Emma's perception of Earl evolve over the course of the story? Alternatively, how do you think Earl's perception of Emma changes?
8. Emma says her mind works faster when she listens to music. What about you? What helps you think?
9. Emma's Mama says "Often in our darkest days, in our hardest times...that's when we find our destiny." Do you agree with her? Explain why or why not.
10. What surprised you most about the story? What did you learn from reading this book?