Reading Group Guide for A Borrowed Dream by Amanda Cabot

(Spoiler alert—these questions assume you've already read the book)

- 1. You probably guessed from the title that dreams were going to play a role in the book. How different do you think the story would be if Catherine hadn't had a disturbing dream the night before the book begins?
- 2. Austin hides important aspects of his past from Catherine and others. Do you agree with his actions? What alternatives did he have?
- 3. Catherine's life is shaped by the fact that she's a nineteenth-century woman and that society had rigid rules about what women could and couldn't do. What parts of the story do you think would have been different if she hadn't hesitated to ask Austin personal questions?
- 4. Another aspect of nineteenth century life that impacted Catherine was the medical care her mother received. Did you find her reaction reasonable? Why or why not?
- 5. Did you understand Catherine's reluctance to be a man's second love? Do you think this is a result of her living in the nineteenth century or is there another reason for her feelings?
- 6. Why do you think Sherman Enright turned out to be the man he is? What would have led him to a life of crime?
- 7. Were you surprised by the identity of the attacker? Why or why not? Who else did you suspect?
- 8. When you saw the books on the cover, did you expect there to be a story about them?
- 9. A sermon gives Catherine a new perspective on some important part of her life. Do you think that's realistic? Has that ever happened to you?
- 10. When you finished the book, did you believe that justice prevailed? If not, what would you have changed?
- 11. A new midwife and teacher are coming to Cimarron Creek. What changes do you think they'll bring?

