

**Reading Group Guide for**  
***Hope Harbor***  
**by Irene Hannon**

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

1. When Michael arrives in Hope Harbor, everything seems to go wrong—but in the end, all the glitches worked to his advantage. Have you ever experienced a situation that seemed disastrous at the time but in hindsight led to good things? If so, describe it. How did it affect your perception of bad experiences?
2. Charley gives Michael a quote from Job very early in the book. Do you think it's accurate? Have you ever had a renewing experience when you needed it most? If so, describe it and how it affected you.
3. Tracy is struggling to hold the family business together in what appears to be a hopeless situation. What would you have done in her place?
4. Anna and her son have held a grudge for almost twenty years. Have you ever experienced a rift in your family? What caused it? How was it resolved? Could it have been mended sooner? How?
5. What did you think of Charley? In one word, describe how you felt about him by the end of the book and explain why you chose this word.
6. Michael carries a heavy burden of guilt for putting his wife second place in his life. Yet his reasons weren't selfish; he was doing good work. Do you think his guilt was deserved or misplaced?
7. Have you ever had difficulty juggling priorities? If so, how did you deal with it?
8. Michael's late wife didn't believe in coincidence; she saw God's hand in every situation. She also believed everything happens for a reason, and the best way to live is to trust God and go with the flow. Do you agree with this philosophy? Why or why not?
9. Tracy, too, is dealing with guilt and grief. Do you think her guilt is warranted? Why or why not?
10. Have you ever dealt with anyone who suffered from SAD or other types of depression? How did it affect their life? How can friends and families help a person in this situation?

11. What did you think of Anna when you first met her? How did your opinion of her change during the course of the book? Give some examples from the story to illustrate why your perception changed.
12. Anna finds new meaning and purpose in life when she comes out of her self-imposed isolation and rejoins the human race. What specifically did she do that started her down a new path?
13. How did you feel about Grace? Do you think her family dynamics were portrayed realistically? How would you deal with this crisis if it came up in *your* family?
14. Have you ever been in a situation where tempers got out of hand, harsh words were said, and relationships were permanently damaged? What are some ways to keep this from happening?
15. Who was your favorite character in the book? Why?
16. Who do you think changed the most during the course of this story? Why did they change? Give specific examples of *how* they changed.
17. Do you think Michael will be happy long term in Hope Harbor? Why or why not?
18. Did you think the romance between Tracy and Michael was depicted realistically? Why or why not?
19. What was the most touching scene for you? Why?
20. Did you think the plot of *Hope Harbor* was well constructed and credible, and the characters believable? Why or why not? Talk about your impressions of the book from a literary standpoint—its strengths and weaknesses. If you were the author, would you have done anything differently?



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