

'A' IS FOR ALASKA: TEACHER TO THE TERRITORY

By Naomi Gaede Penner

Many of the questions are general rather than chapter-specific. You may find it helpful to look over the questions before you begin reading, and then refer to them as you complete each chapter. Pick and choose the ones that best fit your interests, your family, or your book group. Keep a notebook and jot down your responses as you go throughout the book.

1. Select three of the most humorous incidences in the book. What made these amusing to you?
2. What did you learn about Alaska that you found most interesting?
3. What intrigued you about Anna's life choices as a woman, a single woman, a school teacher?
4. In both Valdez and Tanana, Anna was in a pivotal position of helping the community work together for the common good, regardless of ethnic, religious, or occupational differences. List five examples.
5. Compare and contrast the conveniences among the Natives' cabins, the Arctic Mission's house, the medical compound, the Quonset huts the teachers lived in, and the new school apartment. What would distress you the most?
6. What kinds of people do you pay attention to? Explain your choice(s).
 - a. Athletes
 - b. Movie Stars
 - c. Leaders in your areas of interest or profession
 - d. Someone who has beat the odds
 - e. Ordinary people who make a difference in their world
 - f. People with a lot of money
 - g. Unconventional people who aren't afraid to try something different
 - h. Other _____
7. How would you describe a role model? Who is your role model for living life fully? What are his/her characteristics? What steps are you taking to be like that person?

8. How often do you reflect on the impact of your life on other people? What prompts this consideration? For who are *you* a role model? What do you think a person would want to emulate in your life?

9. Has reading Anna's story made any difference in your attitudes, goals, values, choices, curiosities, or motivations? Explain.

10. Who do you know that would benefit from reading this book? Pass it along.