

SILVER LININGS

MY LIFE BEFORE AND AFTER *CHALLENGER 7*

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BOOK CLUB
DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

BY ANNE RODGERS

1. *Silver Linings* is a coming-of-age story, a love story, a story of a public and private tragedy, and a story of triumph and hope. Which of these stories resonated with you the most? Why?
2. What would you consider to be three defining moments in June's early (pre-married) life? What were the defining moments of her faith life? Are any of these the same?
3. In a world where tragedy is all too common, why did the *Challenger* accident strike such a strong emotional chord not only in the U.S. but also around the world?
4. How has this book changed your perception of the *Challenger* accident, the astronauts, space exploration, and the NASA program?
5. Why is the public so curious about survivors of public tragedies?
6. Faith is a major part of June's life. Did June's faith ever appear to waver during difficult times? If yes, when?
7. Did June manage her destiny, or did fate manage her destiny?
8. A hero is *a person of distinguished courage or ability, admired for brave deeds and noble qualities*. Who are the heroes in *Silver Linings* and the *Challenger* story? Who is your favorite hero in the book?
9. June developed her ABC's for positive thinking at a very early age, and they have been a constant influence throughout her life. Do you have a "formula" from childhood that you still use to guide your decision making today?
10. If part of the *Challenger* mission was to educate students and teach a lesson from space, in what ways were the astronauts successful?
11. The author's tragedy of losing a spouse inspired her to create the Challenger Learning Centers. What other organizations or community resources/attributes were inspired by a tragedy? What does this say about the role of grief in our lives?
12. Which played the biggest role in preparing June for her role in the Challenger Center's development—her humble past, her personality, or the circumstances of the accident?
13. Reflect on your own educational experiences with math and science. What, if anything, encouraged or inspired you in these areas? What would you predict to be the Challenger Center's impact on the future of science, math, and space education?
14. Which parts of June's story were most unexpected or surprising? Why?
15. Considering her family history of poverty, discrimination, and mental illness, why did the author focus her talents on furthering math and science education and not on one of the other issues?
16. In the chapter from "From Scars to Stars," June learns a hard lesson from a reporter who misconstrues information when publishing a story about the Challenger Center. Where is the line between reporting that brings awareness of tragedy and reporting that exploits tragedy?
17. What were June's childhood dreams? Did she accomplish them? Did Dick realize his dreams? What part did she play in seeing Dick realize his dreams?
18. What character traits—both good and bad—did June inherit or learn from her parents? How did those traits shape June's life?
19. June met General Rodgers on Easter at a sunrise service in Arlington National Cemetery where Dick Scobee is buried. Would you consider that a coincidence, destiny, or Divine Intervention?
20. What have you learned from this book? What have you learned about yourself? Consider the words *poverty, education, family, love, grief, commitment, dreams, perseverance*. What do June's experiences reveal about each of these?