

## True Grit – Discussion Questions

### General Questions:

Did you enjoy the book (or whatever part you read)? Why or why not?

Did you think True Grit was a typical “wild west” book or not? Would you recommend it to someone who doesn’t usually like western stories?

Would you go to see the movie of True Grit (either one)?

Who was your favorite character other than Mattie, and why?

Did it make a difference in the book that Mattie was a girl? Would the book have been very different if Mattie was actually a kid named Matthew?

### In-Depth Questions:

What is your definition of “true grit?” Can you think of any examples of people you know or in history that have demonstrated “true grit?”

Mattie says at one point that Rooster “stretches the blanket” or greatly exaggerates his stories? Is Mattie guilty of doing the same thing in relating some of her stories?

How does Mattie reconcile her strong moral and religious beliefs with her fondness for Rooster? Can you think of other relationships, in fiction or in life, where people must reconcile one set of political or religious beliefs with the behavior of another person they love?

Can you think of other books where the hero or heroine reminds you of Mattie?  
Examples: Katniss Everdeen in *The Hunger Games* (young girl loses her father at a young age and must assume adult family obligations); Huck in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (13 year old boy faces a changing pre-Civil War America alone).

Mattie is telling the story from the vantage point of the end of her life – do you think she would have done things differently in hindsight? What would you have advised her to do differently if you had been there at the time?