A Walk to Remember (choose 2)

**1.** Jamie is shunned by her peers at school. Is this a realistic portrayal of today's high school students? Would an outstanding student who is kind and gentle, wears dowdy clothing, uses no makeup, and carries a Bible with her everywhere be a source of ridicule? Why or why not?

**2.** One of the central themes in *A Walk to Remember* is listening to your heart. Consider all the decisions facing teenagers, including which college to attend, which subject to major in, whether to take out massive student loans, whom to date, and so on. Does American society encourage feeling your way through those decisions or thinking your way through? Give concrete examples of the messages given by the media, colleges, guidance counselors, parents, and other students.

**3.** With such a focus on Jamie's (and, later, Landon's) faith, *A Walk to Remember* is considered by many to be a Christian novel. Does this story have a larger audience than Christian readers and, if so, why?

4. What is the major theme of this movie?

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A- The movie draws on a classic religious theme; the redemption of an unruly, secular, protagonist who does not know where he is going in life by the example of a strong Christian believer. The novel gradually changes its focus as this redemptive theme gathers force.

During the first half of the novel, even though the small town of Beaufort, North Carolina, has eighteen churches, and “our lives centered around the churches” (as Landon puts it), the Reverend Hegbert Sullivan and his pious daughter Jamie are presented through the eyes of the narrator Landon Carter as unattractive, distasteful figures, the objects of ridicule and derision. This changes in the second half of the novel, however.

Landon learns to respect Jamie, and then under the pressure of her fatal illness, he starts to read the Bible and develop his own faith. In the end he learns that “if you put your trust in God, you’ll be all right in the end.” This was the faith that Hegbert Sullivan tried every Sunday to instill in his congregation, and at the time Landon was not the slightest bit interested. But through Jamie he learns the truth of that assertion, and in that sense he is redeemed from his former state of ignorance. He also learns from Jamie the Christian value of forgiveness, since she holds no grudges against anyone for having treated her badly.