

Harry's Trees by Jon Cohen ~ Discussion Questions

1. How does *Harry's Trees* use the fairy tale form, either in a traditional way or with a twist? Did you enjoy the fairy tale elements?
2. Gold is often hoarded and fought over in many classic stories. But Harry gives his gold away. How does Harry's golden journey affect him and ripple outward to test friendships?
3. What kind of man is Harry? To what extent is his guilt over Beth's accident self-imposed: is his self-blame senseless or understandable? What is the irony of Harry's work as an analyst given his love of trees?
4. Discuss the way Harry's life was shaped by his childhood. For young Harry, what do trees come to represent?
5. *Harry's Trees* is based on the belief that "the ordinary world is extraordinary, all the time, for everyone." What is meant by the "ordinary" world?
6. According to Harry, "Everybody's got a special tree, whether as an adult, or a tree from childhood." Have you ever had a special tree?
7. This novel is about the power of books in our lives. A number of the characters had childhood encounters with books. Do you have a book that you treasured as a child? A special place where you read?
8. What draws Harry and Oriana together. How are their two minds or souls matched? Oriana sees Harry's appearance in her life as a sign. A sign of what? What does Harry see in Oriana?
9. Is there any actual magic in this book? If not, then why does it feel magical?
10. How and why does the power dynamic change between Harry and Wolf? Did you want Wolf to pay more of a price for being a bully?
11. Who is your favorite character?
12. What is your favorite scene or line from the book?