

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**WE
GATHER
TOGETHER**

**A NATION AT WAR, A PRESIDENT IN TURMOIL,
AND ONE WOMAN'S CAMPAIGN TO
RETURN US ALL TO A STATE OF GRACE**

**DENISE
KIERNAN**

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE LAST CASTLE*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** Kiernan opens *We Gather Together* by asking herself why she cares so much about Thanksgiving—and why it holds an indelible place in the American psyche. Is Thanksgiving important to you and your family? Why? How do you give thanks and what traditions are unique to your celebration?
- 2.** What qualities and opportunities shaped Sarah Josepha Hale’s success as one of America’s first female editors? How is her story emblematic of the challenges and limitations American women faced? To what degree do you think she was able to overcome those barriers?
- 3.** The tradition of giving thanks is as old as civilization itself. What does our world’s culture of gratitude say about its place in the human experience? Do you think it is important to practice gratitude, and if so, why?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

4. Do you see any parallels between the divisions that America faced in Sarah Josepha Hale's time and the state of our nation today? If so, what are the most striking themes that have been carried on through our country's history?
5. Every fall we begin to hear how commercial the holidays have become. Thanksgiving has long played a role in businesses hopes for holiday shopping, kicking off the season. Do you feel you'll be engaging with the shopping season in the same way this year?

