



***Fly Girls* by Keith O'Brien**  
**Discussion Friday, 18 July at 10:00 am.**

1. Of the five aviators—Ruth Nichols, Louise Thaden, Ruth Elder, Florence Klingensmith, and Amelia Earhart—whose story most engaged you? Are some struggles more impressive than others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. When Louise Thaden became the first woman to win "The Powder Puff Derby," Charles Lindbergh had little to say other than, "I haven't anything to say about that." What is your reaction to Lindbergh's response?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Author Keith O'Brien says of the fliers: "each of the women went missing in her own way." Why does he make that observation, and what does he mean by the word "missing?"

4. Other than the central aviatrixes, which male and/or female figures stood out for you? Were there people you found that were particularly helpful or harmful to the women's cause?

5. Raymond Orteig, sponsor of the Orteig Prize, worried that his challenge was luring men to their deaths. Do you think he was liable for the injuries incurred by those who participated? Do you think this issue would have a different outcome today?

6. Several aviators, male and female, were greeted by mobs, such as Elder's near successful completion of a trans-Atlantic flight. Why do you think these feats sparked peoples' passions?

7. What do you think of the competitions that the women participated in? Why do you feel they were so compelled to take part? Why do you feel the events' backers put conditions on the events, potentially making them more difficult or dangerous?