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## Johnston Public Library Book Discussion Questions

### **The Christmas Train** by David Baldacci

#### Summary

Disillusioned journalist Tom Langdon must get from Washington to Los Angeles in time for Christmas. Forced to take the train across the country because of a slight "misunderstanding" at airport security, he begins a journey of self-discovery and rude awakenings, mysterious goings-on and thrilling adventures, screwball escapades and holiday magic.

He has no idea that the locomotives pulling him across America will actually take him into the rugged terrain of his own heart, as he rediscovers people's essential goodness and someone very special he believed he had lost.

Equal parts hilarious, poignant, suspenseful, and thrilling, *The Christmas Train* is filled with memorable characters who have packed their bags with as much wisdom as mischief... and shows how we do get second chances to fulfill our deepest hopes and dreams, especially during this season of miracles.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What is Tom Langdon's first impression of train travel in the United States?
2. What role do Regina and Agnes Joe play in the novel?
3. How does Eleanor deal with seeing Tom again?
4. How does setting the novel at Christmas time add to the storyline? What themes and premises emerge as a result of this holiday setting?
5. Discuss how the snow blizzard adds to the character development.
6. The unexpected ending lends itself to the holiday theme of renewal and second chances. Discuss what other elements in the book have this same theme.

Summary from the publisher and Discussion Questions from the author's website.