**Discussion Guide**

1. Which character in this novel do you identify with the most? Why?
2. In the novel, Serena is faced with a series of challenges. Do you find her story sympathetic? Have you ever had a situation where you have been challenged? Did it cause a personal change?
3. What do you consider to be the important themes in this novel?
4. Harry is very aware he is to marry according to his social standing. Have you ever had to deal with other people’s expectations (spoken or unspoken) about your relationships? How did you deal with it?
5. If you could give Serena one piece of advice, what would it be? What advice would you give Harry?
6. In what ways do Serena and Harry change throughout the novel? What do you consider to be the biggest factor(s) in their change?
7. While this is a work of fiction, certain historical elements are referenced, such as the visit to the Summer Exhibition in London. How did these historical details affect the narrative? How did they help you to feel a sense of time and place?
8. What were the most appealing parts of the book?
9. Did you enjoy the minor characters such as Lord Carmichael’s sister and her children?
10. What do you think happens next?