



The Berry Pickers

AMANDA PETERS

Book Club Questions

1. HOW DID YOU CONNECT WITH THE ALTERNATING PERSPECTIVES OF JOE AND NORMA? DID YOU FIND ONE VOICE MORE COMPELLING THAN THE OTHER? WHY?
2. JOE STRUGGLES WITH GUILT THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. DO YOU THINK HIS ACTIONS WERE JUSTIFIED BY HIS TRAUMA? HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT HIS JOURNEY?
3. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON NORMA'S ADOPTIVE MOTHER, LENORE? WAS SHE A VICTIM OF HER CIRCUMSTANCES, OR WERE HER ACTIONS UNFORGIVABLE?
4. HOW DOES MAE'S ROLE AS A CAREGIVER REFLECT THE STRENGTH OF WOMEN IN THE FAMILY?
5. DO YOU THINK JOE AND NORMA FOUND CLOSURE BY THE END OF THE BOOK? WHY OR WHY NOT?
6. THE NOVEL EXPLORES IDENTITY AND CULTURAL ERASURE. HOW DID NORMA'S JOURNEY TO UNCOVER HER TRUE HERITAGE RESONATE WITH YOU?
7. HOW DOES THE THEME OF FORGIVENESS PLAY OUT IN THE STORY? ARE ALL THE CHARACTERS REDEEMABLE IN SOME WAY?
8. THE BLUEBERRY FIELDS SERVE AS A KEY SYMBOL IN THE NOVEL. WHAT DO THEY REPRESENT TO THE FAMILY AND TO THE STORY OVERALL?
9. HOW DOES THE NOVEL ADDRESS THE TRAUMA OF LOSS AND ITS RIPPLE EFFECTS ON FAMILY DYNAMICS?
10. WHAT ROLE DOES ART AND STORYTELLING PLAY IN THE CHARACTERS' HEALING PROCESSES?
11. HOW DID THE ALTERNATING TIMELINES AND PERSPECTIVES AFFECT YOUR READING EXPERIENCE?
12. AT WHAT POINT DID YOU SUSPECT NORMA WAS RUTHIE?
13. HOW DID THE PORTRAYAL OF THE MI'KMAQ COMMUNITY ADD DEPTH TO THE STORY? DID IT CHANGE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES?
14. WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE ENDING? WAS IT SATISFYING OR WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED A DIFFERENT RESOLUTION?
15. WERE THERE MOMENTS WHERE THE PLOT FELT PREDICTABLE, OR DID PETERS SURPRISE YOU WITH TWISTS?
16. HOW DO YOU THINK THE NOVEL REFLECTS REAL-LIFE ISSUES FACED BY INDIGENOUS FAMILIES, SUCH AS MISSING PERSONS AND CULTURAL ERASURE?
17. IF YOU COULD ADD ANOTHER CHARACTER'S PERSPECTIVE TO THE STORY, WHO WOULD IT BE, AND WHY?
18. WHAT PARALLELS CAN YOU DRAW BETWEEN JOE AND NORMA'S EMOTIONAL JOURNEYS?
19. HOW DOES THE BERRY PICKERS COMPARE TO OTHER NOVELS YOU'VE READ ABOUT IDENTITY, TRAUMA, OR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS?
20. WHAT LESSONS OR TAKEAWAYS DID YOU GAIN FROM THE NOVEL, AND HOW MIGHT THEY APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE OR WORLDVIEW?

