

Pennsylvania Dutch Glossary

ab im kopp: off in the head

Aamen: Amen

ach: oh

aenti: aunt

boppli: baby or babies

daadi: grandfather

daed: dad

danki: thanks

Die Botschaft: a weekly newspaper serving Old Order Amish communities everywhere

dippy eggs: eggs cooked over easy

Englisch: a non-Amish person

es dutt mir leed: I am sorry

fraa: wife

gut: good

gut-n-owed: good evening

hatt: hard

haus: house

kaffi: coffee

kapp: prayer covering of cap

kinner: children or grandchildren

lieb: love

maed or *maedel*: girl or girls

make wet: rain

mamm: mom

mammi: grandmother

mei: my

mudder: mother

onkel: uncle

Ordnung: the written and unwritten rules of the Amish; the understood behavior by which the Amish are expected to live, passed down from generation to generation. Most Amish know the rules by heart.

Pennsylvania Deitsch: Pennsylvania German, the language most commonly used by the Amish

rumschprunge: running around period when a teenager turns sixteen years old

schtinker: irritable person

scrapple: traditional dish containing leftover pieces of the pig mixed with cornmeal and
flour

umgwehnlich: unusual

ya: yes

Reading Group Guide

1. When Linda finds out that she is adopted, is her anger at her parents justifiable?
Would the situation have been less awkward if Linda already knew that she was adopted? Or would most of her fears and worries still have existed?
2. Is Josie being selfish by wanting to get to know her daughter, especially since she believes she only has a few months to live? What if Josie never went to Lancaster County? Do you think Mary Ellen and Abe would have eventually told Linda about her adoption?
3. Have you ever known an adopted person who reconnected with their birth mother? Did it go well? Was a friendship or bond formed? How did each party react?
4. An unlikely friendship forms between Mary Ellen and Josie. Where do you see God's hand in this, and what did both Mary Ellen and Josie learn?
5. Josie's husband, Robert, is a non-believer, but a good man. What does Scripture tell us about good people who don't believe in God? What is happening to Robert by the end of the book?
6. Josie's healing was a miracle. Have you ever witnessed a miracle--medical or otherwise? Do you believe in miracles?
7. Think of all the lives that Jonas touched just by being himself. Who seemed to benefit the most from his wisdom?
8. Stephen worries that Linda might be tempted by life in the *Englisch* world. What are

some examples depicted throughout the story? And why do you think Stephen was never interested in fully exploring his *rumshpringe* (running around period)?

9. At Jonas' funeral, Katie Ann is upset because a woman named Lucy is there. Do you think this may have to do with Katie Ann and Ivan choosing to move to Colorado?
10. Jonas left letters for the people he loves. Have you ever known anyone who's done this? Why do you think Jonas did it?
11. What would make Samuel uproot his family and move to Colorado? Any speculations? Look for the first Land of Canaan novel—*Seek Me With All Your Heart*—due in stores November 2010.