



September 3-17, 2020

Book club discussion guide

1. Each major character gets to narrate a chapter from their own point of view. Did you enjoy this form of the novel? Did hearing from another narrator change your impression of the other characters?
2. Which of the characters did you like, or empathize with, the most? The least? Why?
3. What did you think of Trudy? What did you like and dislike about her? Given the circumstances, do you think you would have acted any differently in Trudy's place after her sister Tammy ran away?
4. This novel takes place in a rural Ontario town in the 1970s. Why is this setting significant?
5. Love is a really prevalent theme throughout the book. Discuss the differences in the way each character gives and receives love from both familial and romantic perspectives.
6. Trudy is adamant about not believing in love until she falls in love herself. Why do you think this changed?
7. There are several scenes throughout the book where Trudy (p. 32, 107); Fenton (p. 115) and Jules (p. 216) look out at ships on the water. Discuss the motif of ships coming into or leaving harbour – what significance might this have for these characters?
8. Did you pick out any other major themes in the book? How do they connect with each other? Why do you think the author ended the book the way she did?