Pennsylvania Dutch Glossary

*ab im kopp*: addled in the head
*aenti*: aunt
*appeditlich*: delicious
*boppli*: baby
*bruder(s)*: brother(s)
*bu*: boy
*buwe*: boys
*daag*: day
*daed*: dad, father
*danki*: thank you
*dawdi haus*: grandparents’ house
*Dietsch*: Pennsylvania Dutch, the language spoken by the Amish
*dochder*: daughter
*dumm*: dumb
*dummkopf*: dummy
*Dutch Blitz*: Amish card game
*Englisch*: English, i.e., non-Amish
*familye*: family
frau: wife, woman
freind: friend
geh: go
grosskinskind: great-grandchild
grossmammi/grossmudder: grandmother
gross-sohn: grandson
grossvadder: grandfather
gude mariye: good morning
gut: good
guten nacht: good night
hallo: hello
haus: house
Herr: Mr.
hochmut: pride
hungerich: hungry
kaffee: coffee
kapp: prayer covering worn by women
kinn: child
kinner: children
kumme: come
lieb: love, sweetheart
maed: girls
maedel: girl
mamm, mammi: mother, mom
mann: man
mariye-esse: breakfast
mei: my
meidung: shunning
*menner*: men

*mudder*: mother

*nee*: no

*nix*: nothing

*onkel*: uncle

*Ordnung*: the Amish rule of life (unwritten)

*rumspringa*: literally, “running around”; the period of time (around age sixteen) when Amish youth defy conventions and experience life in the “Yankee world” before making the decision to be baptized and commit to the Amish life.

*schee*: pretty, handsome

*schweschder*: sister

*schwoger*: brother-in-law

*seitsam*: strange, unnatural

*sohn*: son

*vadder*: father

*wie gehts*: how are you?

*willkum*: welcome

*ya*: yes

*yung*: young
1. For years Katherine struggled with unrequited love. Have you ever yearned for something you couldn’t have? How did you handle having a dream just out of your reach?

2. Did you find Johnny’s actions impulsive? Do you understand why he refused his family’s and community’s help? Why or why not?

3. What do you think might have happened to Johnny and Katherine’s relationship if he had told her about his feelings earlier? Would their relationship have lasted?

4. Sawyer had to convince several people he was serious about his faith—Laura, Cora, Laura’s mother, the bishop, among others. Do you think he succeeded? Why or why not?

5. How do you think living in the Amish community will affect Cora? Do you think she’ll ever understand the Amish faith?
6. Do you think Johnny made the right decision by turning down the Wagners’ offer? What do you think would have happened if he had accepted it?

7. Can you relate to Katherine’s struggle with letting God take the lead in her life? Are there areas in your life where God needs to take control?

8. In what ways do you seek God’s will and timing for your life?