

# 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 *rumschpringe* (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.