

Glossary

ach: oh

Aemen: Amen

baremlich: terrible

boppli: baby or babies

bruder: brother

daadi: grandfather

daed: dad

danki: thanks

die weibslait gwilde bis in die nacht: the women quilt long into the night

Deitschi wege: Dutch ways

dippy eggs: eggs cooked over easy

Englisch or *Englischer*: a non-Amish person

es dutt mir leed: I am sorry

fraa: wife

guder mariye: good morning

gut: good

batt: hard

haus: house

in lieb: in love

kaffi: coffee

Kapp: prayer covering or cap

katzbaarich: short-haired

kinner: child

maeds: girls

make wet: rain

mamm: mom

mammi: grandmother

mei: my

naerfich: nervous

onkel: uncle

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

outten the lights: turn off the lights

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

rumschpringe: running-around period when a teenager turns sixteen years old

schnuppich: snoopy

schtinkich: smelly

sell is es bescht vun allem: that is the best of all

streng meiding: strong shunning

ummeiglich: impossible

wunderbaar: wonderful

ya: yes

Reading Group Guide

1. At the beginning of the story, Carley is forced to take a vacation because her editor believes she hasn't come to terms with the accident and the death of her mother. Do you believe that to be true? Why or why not? What might have happened to Carley if she had continued on her current path, never going to Lancaster County?
2. Early in the story, Lillian tries to talk to Carley about God. Carley is not comfortable with the topic. Have you ever had a friend who tried to widen the scope of friendship by bringing up spiritual issues never before discussed? Did you really listen to what that person had to say? Or, if you were in Lillian's shoes, how far would you push the issue in an effort for your friend to see that having a relationship with God can make a difference?
3. When Noah approaches the subject of God with Carley, she becomes agitated. However, each time Noah veers away from the subject, Carley comes back

to it. Why do you think that is? Have you ever had a difficult time reaching out to God because you felt like He had let you down? If so, how did you resolve those feelings?

4. Carley judges Noah based, in part, on his profession. Have you ever judged someone based on his or her line of work, or the way that person looked or dressed? Were opportunities missed because of your judgment? If so, in what way?
5. The Amish believe that shunning is a way to keep the church pure. It is not intended to be a punishment, but an opportunity for the person shunned to right his or her ways in the eyes of God. Do you feel this is a fair and acceptable practice? Or do you believe it is cruel? Should exceptions be made in certain cases? Have you ever been shunned by someone you love? Have you ever shunned?
6. When Noah falls into a coma, his family members fear the possibilities, causing them to struggle between upholding the shunning and standing by their loved one. Have you ever held firmly to a belief, only to have it tested during a crisis? What if someone you had pushed away lapsed into a coma—or worse, died? What regrets would you have? Are there relationships in your life you need to take a look at while you still can?

7. Carley watches those around her put their faith in God, despite the challenges they face. In what ways did Carley's life begin to change when she opened her heart to God? When she accepted that the plan she had for herself might not be the plan God had for her? Have you struggled with accepting God's plan in your own life? In what way?
8. Why was it so important to Samuel to find the letter Noah wrote him? What do you think would have happened if he hadn't found it? Would he still have gone to the wedding? Why did he give the letter to Noah?
9. Carley finds self-healing when she focuses on the needs of others. In addition to getting the clinic ready, helping Lillian with household chores, and caring for Anna, how else did she help those around her? Did she help Samuel? Dana? Esther? What opportunities have you had to minister to yourself as you minister to others?
10. Members of the Old Order Amish community worry that they will be unequally yoked with outsiders. However, despite their beliefs, they still maintain relationships with several *Englisch* friends in the story. Have you ever felt unequally yoked with someone? Did you disregard your beliefs to help that person in a time of need or to allow a friendship to develop?

- II. Lillian has everything Carley wants—a loving husband and beautiful family. Does Carley ever show signs of being envious? Or jealous? What is the difference between the two emotions? Have you ever envied someone you felt “had it all”? What did you do about it?

12. Carley is afraid to commit to a relationship with Noah, largely due to her breakup with Dalton. Would things have played out differently if Carley hadn't been haunted by those bad memories of Dalton? Have you ever allowed events from the past to influence your decisions?

Amish Recipes

Raisin Puffs

1½ cups raisins

1 cup water

Boil raisins in water until water is gone.

Then add:

1 cup butter

1 tsp. baking soda

In another pot, heat together:

1 tsp. vanilla

2 eggs

1½ cups sugar

Add to raisin mixture and stir.

In large bowl, combine raisin mixture with ¾ cups flour and ½ tsp. salt. Mix well.

Flour hands. Roll dough into 1-inch balls. Roll balls in cinnamon-sugar mixture.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Makes 3 dozen.

Homemade Bread

In a small bowl, mix together:

- ½ cup warm water
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 3 T. yeast (4¼-oz. packets)

Let sit for 5 to 10 minutes.

In large bowl, mix together:

- 1½ tsps. salt
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 1 qt. warm water
- 4 cups flour

Add yeast mixture and mix. Add 5 more cups of flour. If mixture seems too sticky, add more flour until dough pulls from side of bowl. Knead well and let rise in bowl for 30 minutes. Then knead again and put in 5 bread pans. Let rise another 30 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Meatloaf

- 1½ lbs. ground beef
- 1 cup tomato juice
- ¾ cup quick oats
- 1 egg (beaten)
- 2 T. brown sugar
- ¼ cup chopped onion
- 1½ tsps. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Form into small loaves and place in baking dish.

SAUCE:

- 1½ cups brown sugar
- ½ tsp. garlic powder
- 1 cup water
- 2 T. liquid smoke
- 1 cup ketchup

Pour sauce over top of loaves and bake at 350 degrees for 75 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes before serving.

Baked Corn Casserole

- 2 cans creamed corn
- 1½ T. flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 T. sugar
- ½ tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 eggs (beaten)

Spray casserole dish with nonstick cooking spray. In large bowl, mix together corn, flour, milk, sugar, pepper, and salt. Then add beaten eggs. Put in casserole dish.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. While casserole is baking, combine 4 T. butter with 1½ cups Ritz cracker crumbs (1 sleeve). Pull out casserole, sprinkle with Ritz crumbs, and bake for 15 more minutes.