

The Gifts We Keep



BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. This book has five different points of view. Do you think the author does a good job distinguishing between the five characters' voices?
2. If you were to cut the points of view in this book down to four, whose voice would you cut?
3. Which of the five characters do you think shows the most growth throughout the book? Who shows the least?
4. As the main antagonist in the book, did you find Butch to be scary or realistic?
5. What role does Addie play within this family, especially as the only stranger to the rest of the characters?
 - How does her role change as the story progresses?
6. Do you think the section headings ("Tillie begins," "Addie leaps," etc.) accurately represent and foreshadow the chapters and sections?
 - What other themes or symbolism did you notice in the book, particularly surrounding the five main characters?
7. Did you find these representations realistic and fair:
 - Tillie as a person with disabilities.
 - Tillie as she falls in love with Gavin.
 - Henry's relationship with Will.
 - Addie's identity as a Native Alaskan.
8. This book deals with a suicide and a suicide attempt. Do you think this sensitive topic is handled appropriately? Why or why not?
9. The story moves between the present day and flashbacks. How well do you think these timelines work together?
10. Tragedy breaks this family apart; what do you think brings them back together? What does the book say about what makes up a family?
11. What do you think the title, *The Gifts We Keep*, means? Eve says, "These are the gifts that matter, I think. The ones worth keeping." What does she mean, and how does this connect to the overarching themes of family and kinship?
12. If this book were made into a movie, what scenes would you cut? Who would you cast?

