The Secret Keeper by Beverly Lewis

Readers Discussion Questions

1. Jenny Burns feels out of place in the modern world. Has there ever been a time or place when you felt a similar sense of not belonging? How did you deal with that?

2. Jenny departs for Lancaster County without a word to her family or friends. Did this surprise you? How does this compare to her departure from Hickory Hollow later in the book?

3. Rebecca Lapp has only recently begun her secret visits to Katie. What do you think of these visits? What would you do in her situation?

4. Jenny has been dreaming of Amish life for more than a decade. What are some ways in which the daily reality of Amish life doesn’t match her expectations?

5. When caught outside her shunned daughter’s home, Rebecca asks Jenny not to reveal her secret to the brethren, even though doing so jeopardizes Jenny’s Proving. Do you think Jenny is right not to say anything? How would you respond?

6. Mary Beiler suggests that her husband imposed an unusually harsh shunning on Katie Lapp because Katie left him at the altar. Do you agree with this view? Why or why not?

7. Jenny believes that her family has never really understood her or appreciated her for who she is. Yet as time goes by, she realizes she is partly responsible for the distance between them. What are some ways we can reach out to people who are different from us?

8. Contrast Andrew and Kyle. Are there some common qualities that attract Jenny to each man? Besides the obvious cultural differences, what are some ways in which each is unique?

9. Were you surprised at Bishop John Beiler’s response to Rebecca’s confession? How does the bishop change during the course of the story?

10. If you were a seeker like Jenny, what about your current life would you find most difficult to give up? What about your new life would be most challenging to learn? What do you think you would most appreciate about Old Order Amish life?