

the GLOSS
THE BERRY PICKERS
AMANDA PETERS

1. Did you enjoy the book? Rate it from 1 - 5.
2. Amanda Peters has said that the opening line, "The day Ruthie went missing, the blackflies seemed to be especially hungry," came to her, and the rest of the book followed. How did this line set the scene? What expectations did it give you for the story, and were those fulfilled?
3. What did you think of the narrative style? Did having the dual perspective enhance your experience of the story? Which character's voice was most relatable?
4. When did you figure out the relationship between the two storylines, and how did it make you feel?
5. After Ruthie goes missing, what do you think keeps the remaining family members bound together? What do you think pulls them apart?
6. Joe was the last person to see Ruthie before she disappeared, and this haunted him for the rest of his life. How do you think that Joe's guilt affected his life, or changed who he could have become?
7. How does Norma's feeling of being stuck between worlds come out in the story? In what ways might other characters feel a sense of duality or out of placeness?
8. The family faced two major episodes of racism: when the local sheriff in Maine won't help search for Ruthie, and when they return home, the local Indian Agent wants to take away the remaining children. Discuss the effects of this racism on the family. How do you feel you would have reacted to these situations?
9. Amanda Peters has Mi'kmaq heritage. Did you find that her voice came through clearer in her Indigenous characters as a result?
10. You might say this story is ultimately about forgiveness. Which characters need forgiveness? Which character are you most willing to forgive? Are you able to find all the major characters redeemable in some way, or are there any you cannot forgive?
11. The novel comes full circle with its message about truth, forgiveness, and healing. How does the conclusion of the story resonate with the themes introduced in the opening scenes?