

Amish Promises Questions

1. What are some of the reasons that Eve gives the new Englisch neighbors the quilt that Abra made for her before she's ever met them? What does the gesture show about Eve from the beginning of the story?
2. Shani married at nineteen, against her father's wishes. Considering her mother left the family when Shani was young, what do you think her motivation to marry was? What about her personality and experiences made her succeed as a wife and mother?
3. Shani feels she's a competent nurse with everyone but her family. Is it easier for you to care for others or for members of your own family in an emergency? Why?
4. After disclosing that his wife died from cancer, Tim quotes: "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." Shani, in her head, fills in: Blessed be the name of the Lord. Grieving is a process. In your own grief have you been able to bless the name of the Lord sooner or later in the process? Why?
5. Eve tells Shani "...family relations can be tricky. I think everyone has something they're dealing with." Sometimes it's easy to think that other families don't have struggles. Do you sometimes feel this way? Why? Or have you had enough life experience to know Eve is right?
6. Why does Joel feel guilty for Samuel's death? Does anyone else in the story hold him responsible? How does Joel's guilt impact his family?
7. Shani wants Zane to have a relationship with the Lehman children, although Tim is fearful of the Englisch boy's influence on his children. Do you relate more to Shani or Tim? Why?
8. Do you think that Charlie was right or wrong to pursue a relationship with Eve? Why? Do you think he was respectful in the way he did it?
9. According to PTSD Alliance, an estimated seventy percent of adults in the US have experienced a traumatic event at least once in their lives, and up to twenty percent go on to develop posttraumatic stress disorder. Do you or does someone you love suffer from PTSD? What has been helpful in coping with the disorder?
10. Why does Tim offer to rebuild the Becks kitchen? How do Shani and Joel react to his kindness?
11. At the end of the novel Tim and Joel joke about everything *not* being smooth between the families in the future. How do you foresee the relationship between the Becks and the Lehmans playing out? What would you like to see in the future between the two families?