

Reading Group Guide for
A Tender Hope
by Amanda Cabot

(Spoiler alert—these questions assume you’ve already read the book)

1. As the story begins, Thea has few regrets about leaving the only town she’s ever known and starting a new life. Do you believe you would have reacted the same way under the same circumstances? Why or why not?
2. Would the circumstances of Aimee’s birth have had a different effect on the story if it took place in the 21st century?
3. Why do you think the person who killed Stuart’s mother did not kill him? What does that say about the killer?
4. How would the story be different if Thea hadn’t given Daniel a watch with her portrait?
5. Aimee believes in *coup de foudre* or love at first sight. Do you? Why or why not?
6. In contrast to Aimee’s belief in love at first sight, Thea is very wary of immediate attraction and refuses Jackson’s proposal not once but twice. Do you agree with her reasons?
7. Several characters offer advice on courtship. Whose did you think was the most valuable?
8. Do you think it was realistic, given the 19th century timeframe of the story, for one of the members of the Gang to be a woman? Why or why not?
9. Thea feels constrained by the sensibilities of her time and won’t take the lead in some discussions, particularly of her feelings. Do you think this is realistic for the time? What other 19th-century customs and constraints did you notice in the book?
10. What is your favorite scene in the book? Why did you select this one?
11. This is the final book in the Cimarron Creek trilogy. What do you think happens to the characters over the next ten years? If there were a fourth book, who would you like to see as the hero and heroine?