

Reading Group Guide for
The Revealing
by Suzanne Woods Fisher

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

1. If there's one overriding theme in this novel, it would be this: becoming your best self. Isn't that a hope we all have? For ourselves, for our loved ones. In your opinion, which character—Tobe or Naomi—grew the most and became his or her best self?

2. Some, perhaps most, of the couples in this story seem to be unlikely pairs: Naomi and Tobe, Rose and Galen, Mim and Jesse, Brooke and Jon. Consider Tobe and Naomi. Tobe is impulsive, on a quest to find himself, pulled to the outside world, and is uncertain of what his calling is. Naomi is thoroughly Amish. She leads a very sheltered, quiet life and relies heavily on her intuition and thought life. In many ways, they're complete opposites. Yet why are they drawn to each other?

3. Let's talk about Rose and Galen. Rose is older than Galen in both years and life experience. Galen has a rather narrow view of the world. He loves his sister, he loves his horses. And he loves Rose. Why does their relationship, which has its share of friction, actually work well for each other? They felt differently about important family issues, but in what way were they both right?

4. The novel touches on many themes (love, family, forgiveness, second chances). Which do you think are the most important?

5. Brooke Snyder is a talented but hopelessly insecure young woman. Her aunt Lois said she was always copying because she had never found her "original." Her original self, she meant. How did Brooke's crippling insecurities about herself make her vulnerable to taking the wrong path? With work? With men? What a message for those of us who struggle with insecurity! And don't we all. . .

6. The importance of family is seen throughout this novel. It's so important to Naomi, for example, that she insists to Tobe that they remain in the Amish church to stay connected to their families. How did family impact Tobe and Naomi, in both positive and negative ways? How has your own family influenced your decisions for good or bad?

7. What do you think Brooke Snyder will end up doing with the Mrs. Miracle column?
8. Paisley is a mess. She's manipulative, selfish, and woefully unprepared to become a mother, especially of a child with special needs. Do you think she did the right thing for the wrong reasons by leaving the baby at Eagle Hill? Or did she do the wrong thing for the right reasons?
9. Galen and Rose experience tension over Tobe's return. Galen is very objective about Tobe and feels Rose has hobbled him with empathy. Naturally, Rose finds herself defending Tobe. "Galen," Rose warned, "a man's past is his past. It's what he contributes to the present that matters." Do you agree or disagree with Rose's remark?
10. Rose and Galen's friction is common among blended families. How does Galen's point of view about Tobe hold merit? Was there any takeaway value in how they both adjusted their expectations of Tobe?
11. Did you guess ahead of time that Jon Hoeffner was Jake Hertzler? If not, what did you think was going to happen with Jon and Brooke Snyder?
12. At the end of the novel, Tobe Schrock tore up the envelope with the results of the paternity test he had taken to determine if he was Sarah's father. He would never know for sure. What did that action mean for Tobe, and why was it such a turning point for him?
13. Another theme in the book is the idea of forgiveness, of second chances. How did you feel when Rose Schrock sent a message to Jake Hertzler to tell him he was forgiven, even though she knew he probably wouldn't even care? Why was it important for her to let her children know that was the intention of their family?
14. What did you think was ultimately the book's lesson?



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