

Reading Group Guide for
Small Town Girl
by Ann H. Gabhart

1. Jay had an up-and-down life as a boy and has at times followed the wrong paths into trouble. How hard do you think it is for people to change their ways? Is it even harder for them to convince others they have changed and to give them another chance?
2. Graham talked Jay into staying in Rosey Corner, obviously doing some matchmaking. What do you think Graham saw in Jay to make him think Jay would be a good match for Kate? Do you think living and working with Graham helped Jay focus on what things were most important in life?
3. Mike and Jay are longtime friends and yet Mike warns Kate not to get involved with Jay and tells Jay to stay away from Kate. Why do you think he did that? Do you think he was right to do that?
4. Evie has always been a little spoiled and determined to get her way. Do you think marriage changed her? If so, how? Do you think she will make a good preacher's wife? Do you feel that preacher's wives need a calling the same as preachers?
5. From the very first, Lorena loved Jay. Why do you think that was? Do you think she sensed his need for family and felt a kinship with him because of that? Is that also the reason she reaches out to Fern with love?
6. Alice Wilcher chases shamelessly after Jay, and though he resists her efforts, she is still the eventual cause of the trouble between Kate and Jay. Alice obviously feels guilty about this but is unable to just come out and tell Kate the truth. How did you feel about Alice? Have you known girls like her who seem determined to find trouble? Do you think Jay did enough to discourage Alice?
7. Kate jumps to conclusions and blames Jay for the accident involving Lorena without giving him a chance to explain. Have you ever jumped to conclusions about something that happened in your life and found out later you were mistaken? What happened? Were you able to correct your mistake or repair any damage it might have caused?

8. Kate angrily sends Jay away after the accident. By morning, she's having second thoughts, but by then, it's too late. Jay's gone. Do you think it took a lot of courage for Kate to go try to find Jay?
9. Do you think Jay did the right thing leaving without trying to explain to Kate what really happened? Why do you think he did that?
10. Forgiveness is an underlying theme in this story. Who do you think had the most to forgive? Jay or Kate?
11. There are some interesting characters in Rosey Corner: Aunt Hattie, Fern, Graham. Which minor character in the story did you like best? How do you think they added to the story?



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