1.*Setting the novel in the 1980s was a deliberate choice to avoid the era of mobile phones and internet technology.  How different would the story be set in our contemporary 21st world where it is hard to be lost and out of touch for long?*

*2.  Archie empties the house at Jacob's Bottom, losing Grace's possessions.  What would you most miss or most want to save if the contents of your house were randomly lost or disappeared?*

*3.  Is Fergus a true idealist or merely irresponsible?  Do the reader's feelings towards him shift over the course of the novel?*

*4. Is there any a chance of a future of any kind for Hester and Fergus?*

*5. The novel is about love - it is also about loss and how we respond to loss in our lives.  Leo, Archie, Hester, Fergus, Grace - what do their reactions to loss suggest about their characters?*