



## Grounded Discussion Questions

1. Do you think Annie was really in love with Stuart? Why or why not?
2. Before Annie ever gets to the farm, she notices an old lady in Rome planting seeds on her balcony and she rescues Stuart's neglected plant from his apartment. What do these scenes represent for Annie?
3. Do you sense tension between urban and rural life as it is played out through Annie and Beulah? What stereotypes have you encountered about rural or urban life?
4. What drives Annie to stay with her grandmother when she longs to go back to the city?
5. Jake is interested in sustainable agriculture and local food. What role do you think these issues play in our society today?
6. Beulah teaches Annie how to plant and grow a garden. Should Annie have known this if she grew up on a farm? What skills from your own ancestors would you like to revisit?
7. Beulah and Annie preserve the garden produce through the method of canning. Have you ever canned before? What are the advantages of canning your own food?
8. How does Annie begin to appreciate the history of her family's farm? Do you think we appreciate our elders and their heritage in our culture?
9. Why has Jake fallen for Camille when she seems to have a very different set of values?
10. Do you believe Annie and Jake reconnected by chance at the same time each are about to make life changing decisions, or do you believe in divine guidance or providence? How do your beliefs affect your daily life?
11. Stella comes into the characters' lives as a desperate and mysterious stranger and then experiences her own grounding through creation. What has grounded you during difficult times?

12. At the end of the novel, Beulah takes a handful of soil and lets it run through her fingers. Have you ever thought about the land as something that connects us with our past? Have you ever considered it to be something God entrusted us to care for?