

Discussion Questions for  
***Summer of Joy***  
by Ann H. Gabhart

- My initial idea or as I like to think of it my “what if” question for my third Heart of Hollyhill story, *Summer of Joy* was “What if people from the past keep showing up to knock on the doors in Hollyhill?” Have you ever had someone from your past show up again in your life without warning? Were you happy about that?
- David feels awkward as he tries to court Leigh. She’s so young, and he’s definitely out of practice in the dating game. He wants to make his proposal romantic but nothing goes the way he planned. Have you had best laid plans go awry? Do you think perhaps by things not going smoothly David and Leigh had an even more memorable experience?
- Leigh’s mother didn’t want her to leave home and she’s not happy when Leigh falls in love and wants to get married. Do you think it was hard for Leigh to step out on her own? To move to another town? Will her mother ever stop being clingy?
- We find out more about Wes who has always claimed to be from Jupiter. Were you curious about him? Did you suspect he had a reason not to talk about his past? Why do you think he ran away from that past?
- When Zella snoops around and finds out where Wes used to live, she writes to his son. The son doesn’t track down Wes, but the grandson does. Why do you think he did? Should he have come without contacting Wes first? Should Zella have meddled in Wes’s affairs?
- One of my favorite lines in the book is when Jocie looks at Robert and recognizes that his eyes are like Wes’s and then thinks “The ship from Jupiter had finally landed.” Why do you think Jocie was worried about Robert being there?
- Leigh has a secret admirer who sends her notes and flowers. At first, she’s flattered, but then it begins to feel wrong, even creepy. What warning signs did she notice? Have you ever had a secret admirer? How did that make you feel?
- The whole town came out to see Leigh and David get married. And then they kept delaying the start of the wedding because Jocie went missing. Have you been to a wedding where something like that happened? The bride or groom didn’t show up or were delayed for some reason?
- Tabitha tries to stay in touch with her mother in California by sending her a picture of her little boy. Adrienne tears up the picture and then frantically tapes it back together. Why do you think she did that?

- Things turn bad for Adrienne. The man she loves leaves her and she finds out she has breast cancer. In the 1960's the general treatment was a radical mastectomy. Why do you think this was particularly hard for Adrienne to face? Why do you think she goes back to Hollyhill when she faces death?
- Jocie slams the door in Adrienne's face when she shows up at the house. Do you think that was a normal reaction? Why was it hard for Jocie to see her mother? Do you think she should have forgiven her mother?
- When Leigh sees Adrienne and then David goes in another room to talk to Adrienne privately, she takes off without waiting to see what David is thinking. Why do you think she did that? Did you like the scene where David goes after her and they reach out to clasp hands between their cars?