

**Discussion Questions**  
***When the Meadow Blooms***  
by Ann H. Gabhart

Much of this story deals with healing, both physical and emotional. Do you think being close to nature can have a healing effect? Have you ever experienced a time when you did find healing peace in such a setting?

At the beginning of the story, Rose is being treated for tuberculosis at a sanatorium. Tuberculosis was a dreadful, often fatal disease, throughout centuries, but in the 19th century tuberculosis went on a rampage, killing so many people that it became known as the White Plague. Do you think we take for granted medical research that finds ways to treat and sometimes almost eliminate some of the terrible diseases of the past?

Rose had no family to see to her children while she was treated at the sanatorium. How difficult do you think it was for her to leave her daughters at an orphanage? Do you think she could have done anything differently?

Calla was able to adjust to life at the orphanage, but Sienna could not. Do you believe that there are children who do not have the ability to “fit in?” How did Sienna learn to cope with always being at odds with those in control at the orphanage?

Calla prayed for a way to escape the orphanage and then, by chance, she saw the magazine article written by her uncle. Do you believe that sometimes such “chance” happenings are not coincidences but instead the Lord’s providence? Have you experienced such providential coincidences?

Dirk Meadows bears ugly scars from being burned years before. Do you think those scars were the reason he became a recluse or do you believe the sorrow over his lost love had more to do with him shunning personal contact with others?

Calla was afraid of the dark. Why do you think she had that fear? Or do you think that such fears do not always have a reason to explain them?

Sienna’s friendship with her crows was inspired by an internet story I read about a young girl being brought many gifts by ravens she fed. Do you think wild birds can form attachments to people or do you find that hard to believe?

Anneliese sprang to life in my imagination the moment her name came into my mind. Do you think someone’s name can give you an immediate image of that person and what they are like?

While Anneliese only made appearances in the story through Dirk’s memories, did you like her too? What about her made her become real for you?

Rose wasn't as strong physically as she wanted to be after leaving the sanatorium, but she was spiritually very strong. What did you like best about her character?

Dirk's mother tried for years to get Dirk to read the Bible and pray with no success after the tragic fire. However, do you think she planted seeds that did make him eventually pick up the Bible to look for answers in a time of despair?