

DON'T YOU CRY Discussion Questions

*Please Note: Book Club Discussion Questions do contain spoilers.
Please wait to review the questions until after you've finished reading the novel.*

1. DON'T YOU CRY is narrated by twenty-three year old Quinn Collins and eighteen-year-old Alex Gallo. Did one of the narrators resonate more with you? Why?
2. Why do you feel Alex was so immediately drawn to Pearl from the first moment she walked into his coffee shop?
3. Did Quinn take adequate steps to find her missing roommate? Why or why not? Would you have done something differently and, if so, what?
4. Like the narrators of DON'T YOU CRY, their landscapes are strikingly different as well, from the hectic pace of urban Chicago life, to the quietness and solitude of small town Michigan. Did one of the settings appeal to you more as a reader, and what influence do the characters' hometowns and upbringings have on the young adults they've become?
5. There are a number of secondary characters in the novel who play smaller but still important roles, including Dr. Giles, Ingrid, Mrs. Priddy, Ben and more. Did you have a favorite amongst these? One you didn't like?
6. There are multiple forms of parental abandonment in DON'T YOU CRY, from Alex's mother deserting him when he was a young boy, to his father's alcoholism which leaves him alone emotionally if not physically, to the revelation that Ingrid gave Genevieve up for adoption when she was a young girl, claiming that she was dead. Can any of these be rationalized as acceptable and which do you feel was the worst form of abandonment of all?

7. In their minds, Alex's mother and Genevieve's mother believed they were doing the best for their children when they chose to give them up. Do you believe this is true? In what other ways could they have responded to their difficulties with motherhood?
8. Before her disappearance Esther realized that the sister she believed was dead was indeed alive. If you were in Esther's shoes, would you try and find a missing sibling, and to what lengths would you go to unite your family even if it might have a negative effect on your future?
9. Ultimately, even though we don't hear from her much, DON'T YOU CRY is the story of Esther Vaughan. What impressions of her did you form in your mind as you were reading the others' accounts of her? Did this impression hold true when you finally met Esther in the final few pages of the novel?
10. At the end of the novel, who is the hero and who is the victim? Are they different people or are they the same? Why?