

Daffodils and Fireflies book discussion questions:

1. From the beginning, the book's scenery is a big part of the story because the main character, Betsy, lives and works in downtown Cleveland and spends time at the family farm, and she walks a lot. How do the scenes enhance the reading experience? Does Windy Hill become a character on its own?
2. What part does the walking play in helping Betsy sort out her life?
3. Should Betsy have been angrier with her mother for the secrets she kept?
4. Betsy is a workaholic magazine editor when the book opens. How does Betsy's focus change over time and what are the things that cause her to soften?
5. Do you think Tom's interest in Betsy after 25 years is believable? How about Tom's reaction to what Betsy finally reveals?
6. A major theme in the story is how secrets destroy people. How did secrets affect the characters in this book?
7. Betsy has many regrets. Is Betsy too hard on herself?
8. Daffodils and fireflies never co-exist (daffodils are an April occurrence and fireflies are a June-August occurrence), yet there is a scene where they are together at the same time—is it okay for the author to take this kind of liberty?
9. Betsy spends time in three churches and talks with God and her deceased mother multiple times in the book, yet at the end of the book, we don't have the feeling that this was a religious book, i.e., the main character doesn't end up committing her life to Christ or anything of that nature. How is this book religious, or how is it spiritual?
10. Betsy starts journaling after her mother dies—how does the journaling work to help her find answers?
11. Why do you think Betsy has problems with relationships with men?
12. What is a mother's role when she discovers her daughter being abused and how well did Margaret do?
13. Was it believable the way Betsy and her father started up a relationship? How about that first scene when they meet up for the first time?
14. What's the meaning of the teacup?
15. This is not a romance because there's no happily ever after, or is there? How would you categorize this book of fiction?
16. How has Betsy become "healed" by the end of the book?
17. At the end of the book, has Betsy found her way home? In what way is home both a state of mind and a place?