

***Grandmother, Laughing* Book Club Questions**

1. What images stayed in your mind after reading the novel? How did these images affect your reading experience?
2. How did the title serve your experience of reading the novel?
3. Discuss the central choices Susch, Obrum, and Blatz make. Discuss the consequences of these choices.
4. How do secrets affect the actions and happiness of the characters?
5. Although the story is set in the past, in what way could the characters' situation have relevance in today's world?
6. What relationship did you see between the tall grass prairie setting and the characters' emotional states?
7. Discuss Susch's reliability as a narrator?
8. Discuss the influence of Sonia and Maria on the decisions Obrum, Susch, and Blatz make?
9. How does the shadow at the window drive the story?
10. Why does baseball matter so much to Isaac?
11. Discuss the challenges of happily sustaining a love triangle? How many triangles are there in the novel?
12. How is this novel about grace?
13. How is this novel about breathing?
14. How is this a novel about parents' ideals and eccentricities and their effect on their children?
15. Preacher Funk warns his congregation about "talking through the flower." In what way is the novel about unclear communication and its consequences?
16. Susch and Obrum have a son named Isaac. Discuss the significance of that.
17. How does art inform the characters' spirituality?
18. Discuss the various grief experiences the characters have.
19. Discuss the significance of the lawn swing, the wedding dress, and the piano to the different characters.
20. How does this novel work as a love story?