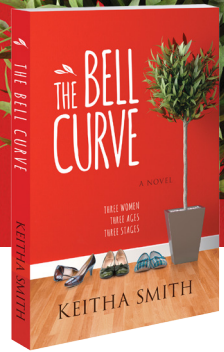


THE BELL CURVE



Book Club Discussion Questions

1. Out of the three main characters, Sarah, Margaret and Pearl, who do you think drives the story the most? Why?
2. Of the secondary characters, who was your favorite and why?
3. Which age and stage did you identify most closely with and which do you feel is the most challenging?
4. Why do you think Margaret has become so unhappy with her life? What would you have suggested she do to get herself out of the rut she'd found herself in?
5. Do you think old age should lead to lack of usefulness? What do you see as the solution to leading a full life into your later years?
6. A lot of the characters are dealing with issues relevant to their point in life and have their life's outlook heavily influenced by their immediate issues and problems. How do you see your friends and family (or yourself) dealing with such issues and do you think our own preoccupations step us from empathizing with others at different places on their life journey?
7. What, for you, was the most important theme of **The Bell Curve**?
8. If you wanted to predict a future outcome for any character beyond the end of **The Bell Curve** what would it be?