

Redemptive Love in *The Spitfire Grill*

Consider these questions as you view *The Spitfire Grill* (1996, 117 minutes, rated PG-13 and A-II), jotting down brief thoughts (not full answers) so that you can refer to them later. After the film your teacher will provide further instructions.

1. Percy goes to Gilead with the hope that she can have a second chance, a fresh start. To what extent is she successful? Who tries to help her with this? Who stands in her way?
2. Describe a time in your life when you wanted or needed a fresh start. Were you able to get it? Why or why not?
3. If you were Hannah, would you be willing to trust Percy, to look beyond her past and let her live and work with you? What are the risks of trusting as Hannah did? What are the unexpected benefits or surprises when we trust others?
4. As Percy and Hannah begin to develop a relationship, Hannah falls and injures herself. As Percy puts balm on Hannah, she asks, "Do you suppose there are wounds so deep that the healing of them hurts as much as the wounding?" How would you answer this question? In other words, are there things in life that hurt so deeply that it's difficult even to acknowledge? Why is healing so painful at times?
5. Hannah's nephew, Nahum, doesn't believe that Percy can change. Describe a time when you felt this way about someone else or a time when someone else expressed this about you. Why is it sometimes so difficult for us to believe that someone else can change, especially for the better?
6. If you were a resident of Gilead, would you be able to forgive Nahum? If you were Hannah or Shelby, would you be able to forgive him? If you were Nahum, would you be able to forgive yourself? Based on these insights, what do you think is the most important lesson this film can teach us about forgiveness?
7. Recall the definition of *redemptive love*: "love that is willing to give everything—even one's own life—for the sake of redeeming, saving, or setting free another person." How do you see redemptive love in this film? Which characters embody this idea in their words and actions?
8. Which character in this film most reminds you of Jesus? Why?
9. Which character in this film do you think is most like you? Why? Which character in this film do you think is most unlike you? Why?
10. This film was financed by the Sacred Heart League, a nonprofit Catholic communications organization. Why do you think a Catholic organization was interested in bringing this story to the screen?

