

When Love Blooms Discussion Questions

1. What drives Emily to apply for a job as a governess? How do her family and friends react? Have you ever made a decision that was met with a similar reaction?
2. What is Gavin's first impression of Emily? What assumptions does he make about her? Did you make assumptions about any of the characters in the novel? Did they prove to be true or false?
3. Both Emily and Gavin faced difficult situations growing up. How did each cope with these difficulties? What did Emily have growing up that Gavin did not? How does this affect her character differently?
4. Compare Gavin and Dru. What are their attitudes toward Dru's illness? Toward Emily? How do their attitudes reflect the state of their hearts?
5. Though we never meet her character in person, Gavin's mother deeply affects his relationship with Emily. How does Gavin compare his mother to Emily? To himself? Are any of his comparisons justified?
6. Emily and Gavin both repress their feelings for each other because of Dru, even though she continuously tries to fan the flames. How do you feel about what Dru is doing? Could she have taken a different approach? Are there other factors that cause Gavin and Emily to repress their feelings besides Dru's presence?
7. Emily is unsure if she is following God's will after her hasty acceptance of Patrick's proposal. What is the reason she gives for her uncertainty? Have you ever experienced a time when you were not able to discern God's will? Were you eventually able to recognize it? How?
8. What event causes Gavin to finally surrender to the Lord? Have you or someone you know ever experienced a spiritual conversion in the face of hardship? How does Gavin's perspective change after his conversion?
9. Emily is finally able to see the importance of her role in working for the Blakes at the end of the novel. How is it different than what she originally set out to achieve? What does this show about the nature of God's will?