

1. The events of Ruby Valentine's life don't unfold chronologically in *Probably Ruby*. Why do you think Lisa Bird-Wilson made this choice? How did it influence your reading experience?

2. Discuss Ruby's relationship with her adoptive parents, Alice and Mel. Does this change over time? Who owes who an apology? Who owes who forgiveness?

3. Ruby is drawn to people who are also part Métis, like her counselor Kal and former partner Moe. Why do you think that is?

4. Bird-Wilson writes that Ruby "spent her life being told she was chosen but constantly needing people to prove it." How do you see this playing out throughout the novel? Which characters "proved" this to Ruby in the end?

5. How does her boyfriend Bart's death continue to affect Ruby throughout her life?

6. Discuss how Ruby's addiction began. What are her triggers? Why do you think she continues to relapse?

7. Did you feel Ruby's birth parents, Leon and Grace, had agency over their own lives and choices? Why or why not? What forces outside of their control were each of them dealing with?

8. How does Ruby attempt to avoid the mistakes her parents made with her while raising her own children? Do you think she will be successful?

9. When Ruby and her biological grandmother, Rose, finally meet, Bird-Wilson writes, "They talked for three days, non-stop." How does meeting Rose change Ruby's sense of self? In what ways does Rose fill a hole that pained Ruby her entire life? What is the impact of meeting her family on Ruby's relationship to the "family pictures" she cultivated and collected over time?

10. In what ways do you think Ruby's sense of self would be different if she'd known her birth family, or if her adoptive parents had been more open with her about her roots?

11. In what ways did *Probably Ruby* surprise you, or cause you to consider a different perspective? Discuss

