

Discussion Starters for *The Book and the Rose*

The Book and the Rose

Tell me who you love, and I will tell you who you are.... When John Barnes acquires an old book filled with intriguing handwritten notes, he begins a correspondence with its previous owner – and it promises to be more than just an exchange of letters. John learns that people, like books, should not be judged by their covers.

1. When John first buys the book, he is upset by the writing in the margins. Then as he reads the notes his feelings change. Why did he change his opinion?
2. As John corresponds with Sarah and gets to know her, he forms a picture of her in his mind. When he finally goes to meet her he finds that picture tested. Have you ever made a judgment about a person or people and found yourself to be mistaken? What are some ways that we “judge a book by its cover?”
3. If John had not decided to talk to the woman with the rose and keep an open mind, he might have missed out on the love of his life. What are some ways we can counteract the natural human tendency to prejudge?
4. Are there people in your life that you have judged prematurely and passed by? How can you remedy that? List some specific steps you can take to become acquainted with those you don’t know.
5. In 1 Samuel 16:7 we read: “...*for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.*” How is this principle illustrated in “The Book and the Rose?”