

—DISCUSSION QUESTIONS—

for use with Like Honey for the Bones by Brandy Heineman

1. After their initial meeting, Kyle and Solveig quickly establish a rapport in spite of being opposites in many ways. How are the two of them similar? What factors led to them forming a connection? Do you have an “opposites attract” story?
2. Discuss how the discovery of the skeleton becomes personal for Solveig.
3. Kyle struggles with the impulses of his “old self,” to the point that he sometimes argues with “the dead man inside.” Why do you think this becomes an issue for him? What circumstances do you think left him especially vulnerable?
4. Were you familiar with the Norwegian concept of *koselig* (or its Danish counterpart, *hygge*) before reading *Like Honey for the Bones*? Share ideas for making things *koselig* in your life and home. Are there other aspects of Scandinavian culture that are intriguing to you?
5. Sisters Gussie and Eloise have been labeled “the pretty one” and “the smart one” by their father. How do you think this impacted them both? Have you had to overcome any labels?
6. Gussie struggles when the reality of Philip’s “shell shock” (or what we now call PTSD) confronts her idealistic dreams of marriage. Why do you think she clings to the idea of the “perfect” life she’s imagined even after it’s been shattered?
7. Contrast what Bestepappa, Gussie, and Harvey believe and practice regarding mercy. What is your understanding of mercy?
8. Were you able to guess whose bones were left in the cavern before the reveal? If so, what was the telling clue? If not, who did you think it was, and why?
9. This book’s title is a reference to Proverbs 16:24, “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.” How do you see the truth of this verse playing out in the story?
10. Are you bilingual? If you wish, share a fun phrase or teach your group a few words.

