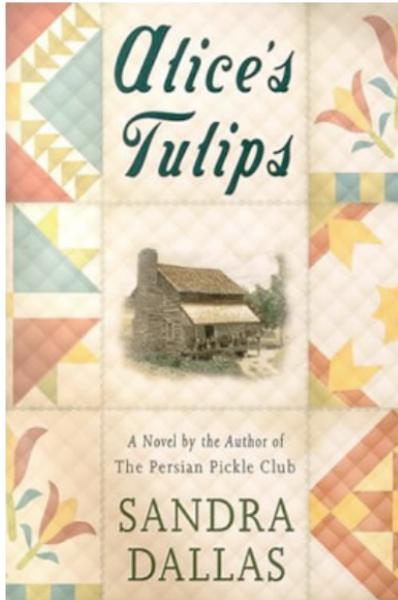


# Reading Group Questions for books by SANDRA DALLAS



## *Alice's Tulips*

1. “Mother Bullock had walked all the way to town in heavy snow. The cold had been so bad that Mother Bullock, who knits everywhere, even when riding in a buggy, had not been able to knit a sock as we went along.” How, amid all this hardship and constant work, do the women manage to bear up and even be cheerful?
2. Women’s friendships are often the center of Sandra Dallas’s novels. Here, though, the women aren’t all reliable friends. Miss Kitty and Jennie Kate both love to make Alice’s life difficult. Are their motives similar? Who causes Alice more trouble?
3. What do you make of Jennie Kate’s jealousy? Why does she decide to give her child to Charlie’s wife who she always criticizes-instead of her own family?
4. Alice claims that Miss Kitty “has had herself a good time, and no harm done-to her, at any rate. She disremembers all the trouble her foolishness caused me:” Is Miss Kitty deliberately trying to hurt Alice, or is she just causing trouble to amuse herself?
5. Mother Bullock and Alice take in Joybell and Annie cheerfully, despite the strain on their resources. If the men had not been off at war, how would they have behaved differently toward the drifters? If Annie and Joybell hadn’t been able to help on the farm, would Alice and Mother Bullock have continued to help them?
6. Since the letters are from Alice, we only see her side of the story. Do you think Alice correctly assesses Mother Bullock’s feelings for her?
7. What is the significance of the tulips to Alice? To Mother Bullock?
8. Although Frank values everything his brother tries to destroy, how can he and Nealie continue to keep Samuel’s secrets, and, in turn, enable him to continue committing crimes?