

Peaks and Troughs – Reading Group Questions

Peaks and Troughs is the story of a naïve young man who is initiated into adulthood through the harsh reality of having to survive in the material world. Despite the hardships, he never loses his belief that there is an alternative way to farm that is sympathetic to the earth and the animals in his care. His neighbours never take him seriously and try to undermine his efforts as he struggles against the elements and nagging self-doubt, but he carries on, no matter how close to the edge he and his family get.

This is a warm-hearted, humorous and ultimately inspirational tale of a young man's attempt to run an organic farm in the unforgiving Welsh hills.

- How well does *Peaks and Troughs* evoke the 1970s?
- How do you feel Nick and his family's arrival was perceived by "the locals" and how do you feel that changed over the years?
- Do you think it was fair of Daphne Musto to leave her note with its warning?
- Do you think they fell into a life of self-sufficiency or were driven by the ethos?
- Do you admire the family their endeavour or are you left feeling it was a fated experiment?
- Who do you feel got the most from the experience?
- What do you think of Eryl's attitude to Nick?
- Nick's descriptions of the countryside, people and situations are very evocative. Do you feel that this book is going to impact on tourism in the area?
- Which character do you most relate to and why?
- Who is your favourite animal and why?



THE
READING
AGENCY