

Teachers' Guide for *Picture Perfect* by D. Anne Love

Questions for Discussion:

From the outside Phoebe's life looks perfect. What does she do to protect the illusion?

From the cover of the novel: *A picture is worth a thousand words*. If you could create a picture to portray the true state of the Trask family, what would it look like?

Nick swears Phoebe to secrecy regarding his family problems. Was Phoebe right or wrong to keep his secret?

What do Phoebe and Zane learn about themselves as a result of their mother's illness? How does Phoebe's relationship with her mother change over the course of the novel?

Judge Trask must uphold the protesters' rights to free speech even when he doesn't agree with it. How important is free speech in maintaining a democracy? Should there be limits on speech? If so, what types of speech should be prohibited? Who gets to decide?

Beth Trask wins a trip to Las Vegas by naming a new hair conditioner "Bee-have!" What new product would you develop for the "Bee Beautiful" Company? What would the package look like?

What three words do you think best describe Phoebe? Zane? Shyla? Beverly? Beth? Judge Trask? Give examples from the novel that support your choices.

Topics for further study/discussion

The First Amendment

Flag Burning

Alcoholism

Cosmetics and marketing

Photography