Final Discussions

1. Rivka makes an allusion to Chaya about being a hero like Samson on page 141. Read the first section on Samson here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samson>

Read the first paragraph of the section entitled Biblical Narrative: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delilah#Biblical_narrative>

**How is Hannah’s character similar to Samson?**

1. On page 119, Rivka tells Hannah, “Rivka put her hand out, touching Hannah gently on the arm, stroking the number with two fingers, ever so gently. ‘It happens sometimes. We forget because remembering is so painful. But memory will return, when you are ready for it.’” (Pg. 119).

**What makes Hannah “ready” for her memory to return?**

1. **There are three different references to the term The Devil’s Arithmetic. What are they?**
2. William Shakespeare wrote in Sonnet 18

“So long as men can breathe or eyes can see/ So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.”

This was in reference to a love poem that he wrote. He is saying that his poem will live forever and therefore men can see this poem and their love will be eternal.

In Chapter 14, Rivka discusses a similar idea, “As long as we breathe, we can see and hear.” (113).

**Why does Jane Yolan incorporate the allusion to Shakespeare? (How can the novel be similar to Sonnet 18?)**

1. **Why is it important to remember?**