

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. How do the four main characters - Caprice, Ada, Maria, and Thea - evolve throughout the novel? Which character's journey resonated with you the most and why?
2. Discuss the importance of female friendship in the novel. How does the Saturday Evening Girls Club support and empower its members?
3. How do the characters navigate the expectations of their families and their own desires for independence? Which character do you think faces the greatest challenges in this regard?
4. How does the novel portray the immigrant experience in early 20th century Boston? What challenges do the characters face as first-generation Americans?
5. Discuss the role of tradition in the characters' lives. How do they balance their cultural heritage with their aspirations as "new American women"?
6. How does the novel address issues of class and social mobility? Consider the influence of benefactors like Mrs. Storrow and Mrs. Guerrier on the girls' lives.
7. The pottery-making aspect of the club serves as a metaphor throughout the novel. How does this activity reflect the girls' personal growth and transformation?
8. Discuss the theme of choice versus duty in the novel. How do the characters reconcile their personal dreams with family expectations?
9. How does the novel explore the concept of the American Dream? Do you think the characters achieve their version of this ideal?



JANE HEALEY

10. The story is narrated from Caprice's perspective. How might the novel have been different if told from another character's point of view or from multiple perspectives?
11. Each chapter begins with an Italian or Jewish proverb. How do these proverbs enhance the storytelling and themes of the novel?
12. Which character did you relate to the most and why? Did your opinion of any character change significantly over the course of the novel?
13. The novel is based on a real organization. How does knowing this historical context affect your reading of the story?
14. What lessons or insights from the characters' experiences in the early 1900s do you find relevant to women's lives today?

JANE HEALEY