



Discussion Questions: *The Weird Sisters*

Folger Book Club—December 2023

1. What are your first impressions of the novel? If asked, what would you say this novel is about?
2. The narration is omniscient first person plural (“we” rather than “I”). How did this influence your reading? Was it effective? Did it make for a more or less reliable narrator? Brown said she wanted to make it “readable and noticeable without it being disruptive.” Was she successful?
3. Were you drawn to one particular sister more than another? Why or why not?
4. Each sister is named for a particular Shakespearean heroine: Rosalind from *As You Like It*, Bianca from *The Taming of the Shrew*, and Cordelia from *King Lear*. If you are familiar with these plays, did you look for intersections with Shakespeare’s characters as you read? How do they do or do not reflect their namesakes?
5. Shakespeare is heavily present throughout the novel, in the way in which the Andreas family communicates with one another, marks milestones, and processes their experiences. Are there other authors that could have filled a similar role? Why or why not?
6. The publisher identifies this novel as “Women’s Fiction.” Why do you think it was marked as such? Is that a fair categorization?
7. What does adulthood mean to each of the sisters? How does the conception of “growing up” dictate their choices? Does that understanding of adulthood change by the end of the novel? Which sisters, if any, do you think see themselves as responsible adults by the end of the novel?
8. The narrator says that God was always there if the family needed him, “kind of like an extra tube of toothpaste under the sink.” To what extent is religion present in the lives of the Andreas family? How does religion intersect with concepts of destiny in the novel?
9. Which do you think is most significant in this novel—the sibling relationship between the sisters, or their relationship with their parents?
10. Why do you think the mother is never referred to by name?