

T U R N T A B L E

Book Club Readers Guide & Discussion Topics

NOTE:

The following page is an optional guide for readers who like to have a notion of what to look out for in the narrative. This is optional and in no way necessary to understand or enjoy the novel.

The Book Club organizer should share this link or print out this page to make available to readers if they would like it.

No part of the story is spoiled on the proceeding page.

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READER'S GUIDE

Some readers prefer to have some helpful callouts before reading. The below Reader's Guide presents a few questions and suggestions for the reader to think about as they read the novel. It is the individual's prerogative if they want to reference this before reading.

WHAT IS MAGICAL REALISM?

Writers.com explains it best:

"In short, 'magical realism' describes a work of fiction where fantasy slips into everyday life. However, the focus isn't on the fantastical elements of the story, so much as on what those elements mean for the characters. Fantasy often acts as an extended metaphor, externalizing some sort of internal conflict or moral quandary in the protagonist's life."

WHILE READING:

- 1) What parallels are there between this and the story of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table?
 - a. Beyond characters, what imagery and narrative phrasing supports this?
 - b. How does railroad history play into this?
 - a. Take note of references to kings, knights, and other related imagery.
- 2) How is Grady a leader? How is he not a leader?
- 3) In what way are the Grailings important to Grady, Lane and Dwayne?
- 4) When and how does mental health become an important factor in the story?