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AUTHOR

Where the Grass Grows Blue

Book Club Sample Questions

1. At the beginning of *Where the Grass Grows Blue*, Penny has created the "idea" or rather an "illusion" of the perfect marriage and family for herself: a husband, children, and a beautiful home. Do you think she was happy or longing to be?
2. Penny's world comes crashing down around her in a public place. How would you react if you were in her shoes?
3. Penny is a devoted runner. Is it an obsession, a defense mechanism, a borderline eating disorder, or a way to relax? Is there something in your life you've used as an emotional crutch?
4. There are two main settings in *Where the Grass Grows Blue*—Atlanta, Georgia, and Camden, Kentucky. How do they shape Penny? In which setting do you feel more connected to her?
5. Secrets plague Penny throughout her life. She puts her trust in Bradley from a young age. Can you relate to this? Which people in your life could you trust with your whole heart? At your worst moment?
6. *Where the Grass Grows Blue* tackles some serious topics—adultery, divorce, domestic abuse, teenage pregnancy, promiscuity, and alcoholism. Did you feel they were written in a realistic, thoughtful manner? How would you have handled each if you were in Penny's shoes?
7. The secondary (supporting) characters in *Where the Grass Grows Blue* play important roles. Who was your favorite, and why?
8. Penny has a close bond with her grandmother, Ruby Ray. What was your favorite "Ruby Rayism"? Do you have (or have had) a special connection with a grandparent? If so, share.
9. Penny loses all three of her siblings to different genetic diseases that she had been spared from. How do you think this shaped Penny as both a child and an adult?
10. Food plays an important role in this book. Did it enhance the story? How would you have reacted if a potluck had been organized for you like it was for Penny at Willow Creek Baptist Church? What would be your perfect southern meal?
11. This novel is meant to transport readers to the south, immersing them in the culture. If you are from this area, what was the most realistic representation? If not, what details taught you about southern living?
12. Flashbacks play an important role in telling Penny's story. Did you find them helpful, distracting? Which flashback was the most pivotal in Penny's development?
13. How much do you think the constant bullying from Emily changed Penny? For the better or the worse? Did you have any sympathy for Emily? Have you ever experienced bullying? What effects did it have on you?
14. What was your reaction when it was revealed that Bradley had married Emily? Did it come as a surprise or did you perceive clues leading up to the reveal?
15. One decision in someone's life can alter the trajectory of it. If Bradley hadn't slept with Emily that night, how would the lives of Penny and Bradley be different?
16. The heart of this novel is forgiveness. To what degree does forgiveness play into the lives of Penny and Bradley? How does forgiveness play a role in your own life?
17. What does the title *Where the Grass Grows Blue* mean to you?
18. What is your favorite scene in the novel? How and why does it stand out for you?
19. What personal connections can you make to *Where the Grass Grows Blue*?