

Faith Lutheran Church Book Club
April 15, 2025, 2:00 pm, Youth Room

Run by Ann Patchett

Discussion Questions

1. The first chapter of the book focused on the statue and who should rightfully inherit it. How did this chapter affect your impressions of the book? Did the statue play the role you thought it would?
2. What year would you place the story? Is it modern day or some other time in the past/future?
3. The author uses the statue to introduce the issue of race and family relations. Were these issues handled effectively?
4. The boys kept finding similarities in their "sister" Kenya – when the fact was...she wasn't related at all. Even Doyle was noticing the physical similarities....were they seeing it because of suggestion?
5. The book shows us a family that is dysfunctional and secretive. It also appears they are cut off from Bernadette's and Father Sullivan's other siblings, presumably due to the statue. Does this family reflect your vision of family?
6. Father Sullivan played a pivotal role in deciding the statue's owner and dividing the family. Did he continue to play a significant role in the book? What would the book have looked like without him?
7. How did the younger Sullivan's revelation of his past to "Tennessee Williams Moser" impact the story?
8. What is the author's underlying message here? Is she presenting a new definition of family, a commentary on socioeconomics or something totally different?

9. The book closes with Kenya running. Does this ending meet your expectations?
10. Are you satisfied with how the author tied up the issues of race, family, parental responsibilities? What would you want changed or delved in to with greater depth?

Discussion questions compiled by the Pierce County Book Club of Puyallup, Washington.