

Skokie Public Library's Book Discussion Guide

Cat's Eye by Margaret Atwood

- Was the “cliquiness” of girlhood portrayed well?
- Which was your favorite description?
 - description of “boys” p. 107-8
 - description of Bohemian life/living in the basement
 - p. 118-9 the cosmetic counter—“embalming her HS friends”
 - p. 119—girls who spray customers
 - p. 386—somewhere in limbo all the old things are waiting to come back
- Did any of you experience the cruelty of children when you were young?
- Are/Were fathers only of “the night”? Was Elaine’s father like that? What about his theory about diabetics? P. 231
- What did you think of Mrs. Smeath? Why did Elaine use her in her paintings? Why did she hate her so? Or did she?
- Was Elaine’s mother wise in the way she handled Cordelia/Grace/Carol’s relationship with her daughter? Could she have done otherwise?
- What was the significance and impact of her being buried in the hole by her friends?
- Why did Elaine agree to walk with Cordelia in high school after the terror she had been through in junior high?
- What is the significance of the Bridge?
- Is religion accurately portrayed in this novel? Why was Elaine so fascinated by the Virgin Mary?
- Who really saved her from the stream?
- Why did Elaine peel her feet?
- Was Elaine’s depression just part of adolescence?
- What did Elaine see in Josef?
- Why do women often “shriek in delight” when seeing one another after a long absence? Do men do that?
- Why did Elaine seem so obsessed with Cordelia throughout this book?
- Did Josef’s film “get it right”?
- Why did Elaine’s first marriage fail?
- Was Elaine mad because she was a woman?
- What is the significance of the title “Cat’s Eye”?
- Why did Cordelia end up in the mental hospital? Was that a surprise to you?
- What would Elaine’s father have thought of the Elvis Zucchini molds?
- Was there hope at the end?



Skokie Public Library

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