

Skokie Public Library's Book Discussion Guide

THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER

by **Carson McCullers**

- How does the friendship between Singer and Antonapoulos foreshadow the relationship between Singer and the other characters? How does this reveal the central irony of communication and alienation throughout the novel?
- What is it exactly that Singer seeks in Antonapoulos, and the others seek in Singer?
- How does Biff Brannon distinguish himself from the other characters? What is his ultimate role? How do his final thoughts at the end shine some light on the meaning of the novel?
- Does the novel have a hero? An anti-hero?
- How is Mick's story the most uplifting (or, perhaps, the only uplifting one among all of the characters)? How does Mick's love of music play into her story?
- Why is the novel set during the pre-World War II Great Depression? Why the American South?
- What is to be made of the competing political philosophies of Dr. Copeland and Jake Blount? How is their inability to synthesize their views another indication of the novel's truths?



Skokie Public Library

5215 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077
847.673.7774 / 847.673.7797 fax
www.skokielineary.info

Skokie Public Library Trustees: John Graham, President;
Diana Hunter, Vice President/President Emerita; Zelda Rich, Secretary;
Susan Greer; Eva Weiner; John M. Wozniak; Dayle Zelenka

Director: Carolyn A. Anthony