

Discussion Questions



About the Book

Book Title: *St. Aster's Grave Secret*

Author: Connie Chappell

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1. What are your general impressions of *St. Aster's Grave Secret*?
2. Challenge yourself and the other club members to recite the meaning of the vocabulary words worked into the mystery: tontine, inviolable, misocainea, inamorata, cenotaphs, chancel, ethnographic dirt, and *amicus curiae*.
3. How would you have reacted in Wrenn's place after the funeral, when the township administrator arrived and revealed Wrenn's trespass to Della Allison, the parsonage housekeeper?
3. Discuss Dragon Bones' impact on the story, including the early twentieth-century changes in pharmaceutical laws and the portion of his life spent in Texas on the Double J Ranch.
4. The early establishment of St. Aster's Church revolves around Havens' Romani community. What is your knowledge of Romani living in your part of the country?
5. This mystery gives the reader a reminiscent view into Wrenn's high school days. The novel introduces William "Ash" Ashworth and Anthony "Highbrow" Highmore-Browne. Both men hold prominent roles in her current affairs. Discuss her relationship with these two men, past and present.
6. Judge Coleman D'Acres is a major character. Describe his personality. Considering his health situation, put yourself in his place and face the publishing debt he is required to undertake.
7. *St. Aster's Grave Secret* goes on stage with Wrenn as director. What are your impressions of her "matinee."
8. Discuss the men who are members of the tontine, the vow they took, and the crimes committed. Do you deem the rationale behind the tontine an honorable one? Why or why not?