



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Witches of New York by Ami McKay

1. All three women have faced challenges in their lives that have required them to start over again. In your opinion, do any of the characters' struggles parallel modern issues?
2. The novel is set in the 1880s near the beginning of the suffragette movement. Discuss ways the characters challenge societal perceptions of women, either modern or historical.
3. The three women circumvent the laws by offering contraception in a period where it is illegal and considered immoral. Is their courage and determination to offer wisdom and assistance a different kind of magic?
4. Discuss one incident in the novel that you thought was shocking.
5. Discuss one aspect of the story that you thought was inspirational.
6. What is the significance of making the main characters witches?
7. Dr. Brody is a man of science, and he is intrigued by the women and their powers. Discuss the role Brody plays in the story.
8. In contrast, Reverend Townsend is depicted as a villain. Compare and contrast the relationship the women have with Townsend and Brody. What does this reveal about societal perceptions of women?
9. As Beatrice's powers grow, a division begins to manifest between Eleanor and Adelaide eventually leading to Beatrice's disappearance. What is the significance of this conflict?
10. McKay's fictional story is intertwined with historical events. What is the significance of Cleopatra's Needle, an Egyptian obelisk?

The above questions were created by Clarington Library, Museums & Archives staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

Book Club in a Bag Terms of Use

Simplify your book club selection with Book Club in a Bag! Visit our website at www.cplma.ca/bookclubinabag to see a list of available titles, view the availability calendar, and submit a request.

Booking a Kit

- Booking may be made up to a year in advance.
- Please check the calendar accessible on our website for availability.
- Fill out the form with your information, and a staff member will be in touch to confirm your booking.
- Pick up your hold at the service desk. Your notification may come in a few days early, but it will remain available until your specified pick-up date.

Terms of Loan

- 12 copies are included in each kit.
- 6-week loan period.
- No renewals.
- Kit may be picked up at or returned to any CLMA library location.
- Kit must be returned at the service desk during operating hours, not through an exterior drop box.
- All items are checked out to one person's card.
- The person who borrowed the kit is responsible for:
 - The distribution and return of all items to their group members; and
 - Any damages to the books/bag, or lost items.
 - The cost of a damaged or lost book varies depending on the item.