

Can two long-lost sisters make peace with their
pasts and learn what it means to be a family?

**FORGOTTEN
APRIL** by ROBYN BRADLEY

Reading Group Guide

A NOTE TO THE READER:

At times, this guide reveals certain aspects of the plot, so be sure you've read the novel in its entirety before reading any further here.

1. The author uses multiple first-person viewpoints to tell the story, and she does this by alternating chapters between different characters. Have you encountered this structure before? How did the structure work in advancing the different threads in *Forgotten April*?
2. *Forgotten April* is told in present tense and follows a chronological timeline, yet many of the characters experience flashbacks. How did this structure work in advancing the overall story and the story arcs for individual characters?
3. One main character—Hazel Cooke—does not have her own point-of-view chapters. How do you think the novel would have changed if the author had included "Hazel chapters"?
4. One challenge in having multiple voices tell a story is making sure the voices are distinctive enough. How does the author accomplish this—specifically, how does the author make sure that April and Maggie sound "different" from one another and Nigel and Hugh sound different from one another?
5. Hugh's first chapter doesn't come until almost halfway through the book. Did you want to hear from Hugh sooner, or did the placement of this chapter make sense to Hugh's character and the overall book?
6. Discuss the role that minor characters, like Joelle, Serena, Trudie, and Kate, play in the main characters' lives and in the overall story.
7. In some ways, the nursing home is its own character. Discuss how the setting influenced the main characters and helped drive the story.
8. Did your interpretation of the title change by the end of the book? If so, how?
9. At the end, we learn that Maggie has discovered a letter explaining the circumstances around her adoption. She says, "I know why, Nigel. I finally know why." But the author chooses to keep the contents of the letter hidden from readers. Did this decision work for the story, and did it work for you as a reader?

10. Two big social issues—handling a parent with Alzheimer's disease and the long-term consequences involving adoption—play major roles in the book. But some other social issues—such as alcoholism, abortion, and gay issues—also play roles. How did your understanding of these issues change after reading the novel?
11. Did your feelings toward Adrienne change after reading the epilogue?
12. At its heart, *Forgotten April* is a story about secrets—and the debilitating effects that harboring secrets can have on a person. Which character do you think benefitted the most (from an emotional standpoint) after revealing his or her secret?

Thank you for reading and discussing *Forgotten April*.

To learn more about Robyn Bradley, check out her website: www.robynbradley.com.