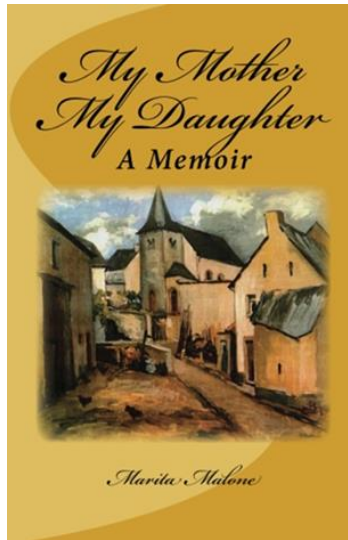


Book Club Discussion Questions



1. Identify the life issues in the memoir.
2. Maintaining control is a concern among many adoptees. In what ways did the author fight for control?
3. Some readers believe that many of the things the author went through is typical of growing up in general. Identify those examples.
4. The author's story is liberating and positively enabling. In what way for adopted adults? For general readers?
5. The book is rich with metaphors, some threaded throughout the book, and others only in the length of a chapter. Identify the metaphors and then share your perception.
6. Towards the end the book suggests that this story could be a story of all mothers and daughters. Compare or contrast the relationships between Sophia and Mathilde and the author's naturalized mother and her.
7. Discuss the role of the Old Lady and determine her most valuable remarks.
8. Which fable of the Old Lady was your favorite? Which fable was the most compelling?
9. The Old Lady eventually fades out of the book. Why would the author not have her character until the end of the book?
10. Was there anything bothersome to the reader about the adoption process for the adoptee and adoptive parents?
11. What parts of the history of Germany during two world wars were memorable and influential to the setting and tone of the memoir?
12. What insight will stay with you long after you have finally closed the book?