

THE LAST SUPPERS by Mandy Mikulencak

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As a daughter of a prison guard, Ginny had been a part of the Greenmount Penitentiary since she was a little girl. How does her childhood and father's murder impact her decision to return to the prison as a cook?
2. Ginny becomes obsessed with the preparation of the last meals for death row inmates. In what ways does Ginny come to understand the reasons for the obsession?
3. What do you think motivates inmates to request the last meals they do? Do you believe Ginny cares about their motivation?
4. Discuss the central role that food plays in the novel. Why is it important for Ginny to involve the inmates' families?
5. What role does Dot play in Ginny's life? Do they allow society to dictate these roles?
6. Roscoe said on more than one occasion he didn't do enough to improve conditions at the prison. Do you believe that?
7. How does the time period for the novel (1920s-1960s Louisiana) affect the actions of the characters? Would they have made the same choices today?
8. What purpose does Ginny's scrapbook serve?
9. Roscoe once told Ginny that seeing her at the execution of her father's murderer brought him more sadness than the death of his best friend. Why do you think that's so?
10. What are some of the reasons you believe Ginny began a relationship with Roscoe? Why is it so important that Roscoe say the words "I love you" out loud?
11. Why do you believe Miriam's relationship with Ginny is so difficult? How is it further affected by Joe's death and Ginny's relationship with Roscoe?
12. In uncovering the truth of her father's death, Ginny upsets the lives of many people including Silas Barnes's widow and son. Are her actions justified?
13. After learning about Roscoe's past, Ginny wants her mother "to share something profound" that would help explain how Ginny could still love him. Why do you think Ginny needs to justify her feelings? And why does her mother's opinion matter?
14. Did reading *The Last Suppers* change your views on the death penalty?
15. Was Ginny's compassion for the inmates and their families an insult to the victims and their families?