

BOOK CLUB IN A BOX

**Bookclub-in-a-Box presents the
discussion companion for
Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows'
novel**

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

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Quotations used in this guide have been taken from the text of the hardcover edition. All information taken from other sources is acknowledged.

This discussion companion for **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** has been prepared and written by Marilyn Herbert, originator of Bookclub-in-a-Box. Marilyn Herbert is a teacher, librarian, speaker and writer. Bookclub-in-a-Box is a unique guide to current fiction and classic literature intended for book club discussions, educational study seminars, and personal pleasure.

This guide was co-written by Sheli Myers. For more information about the Bookclub-in-a-Box team, visit our website.

Bookclub-in-a-Box discussion companion for The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

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CONTACT INFORMATION: SEE BACK COVER.

BOOKCLUB-IN-A-BOX

Shaffer and Barrows' *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*

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BOOKCLUB-IN-A-BOX

Readers and Leaders Guide

Each Bookclub-in-a-Box guide is clearly and effectively organized to give you information and ideas for a lively discussion, as well as to present the major highlights of the novel. The format, with a Table of Contents, allows you to pick and choose the specific points you wish to talk about. It does not have to be used in any prescribed order. In fact, it is meant to support, not determine, your discussion.

You Choose What to Use

You may find that some information is repeated in more than one section and may be cross-referenced so as to provide insight on the same idea from different angles.

The guide is formatted to give you extra space to make your own notes.

How to Begin

Relax and look forward to enjoying your bookclub.

With Bookclub-in-a-Box as your behind the scenes support, there is little for you to do in the way of preparation.

Some readers like to review the guide after reading the novel; some before. Either way, the guide is all you will need as a companion for your discussion. You may find that the guide's interpretation, information, and background have sparked other ideas not included.

Having read the novel and armed with Bookclub-in-a-Box, you will be well prepared to lead or guide or listen to the discussion at hand.

Lastly, if you need some more 'hands-on' support, feel free to contact us. (See Contact Information)

What to Look For

Each Bookclub-in-a-Box guide is divided into easy-to-use sections, which include points on characters, themes, writing style and structure, literary or historical background, author information, and other pertinent features unique to the novel being discussed. These may vary slightly from guide to guide.

INTERPRETATION OF EACH NOVEL REFLECTS THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE BOOKCLUB-IN-A-BOX TEAM.

Do We Need to Agree?

THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS NO.

If we have sparked a discussion or a debate on certain points, then we are happy. We invite you to share your group's alternative findings and experiences with us. You can respond online at our website or contact us through our Contact Information. We would love to hear from you.

Discussion Starters

There are as many ways to begin a bookclub discussion as there are members in your group. If you are an experienced group, you will already have your favorite ways to begin. If you are a newly formed group or a group looking for new ideas, here are some suggestions.

Ask for people's impressions of the novel. (This will give you some idea about which parts of the unit to focus on.)

- Identify a favorite or major character.
- Identify a favorite or major idea.
- Begin with a powerful or pertinent quote. (not necessarily from the novel)
- Discuss the historical information of the novel. (not applicable to all novels)
- If this author is familiar to the group, discuss the range of his/her work and where this novel stands in that range.
- Use the discussion topics and questions in the Bookclub-in-a-Box guide.

If you have further suggestions for discussion starters, be sure to share them with us and we will share them with others.

Above All, Enjoy Yourself

INTRODUCTION

Novel Quickline

Keys to the Novel

Author Information

INTRODUCTION

Novel Quickline

World War II was just beginning when the Germans suddenly landed on the tiny Channel Island of Guernsey. The islanders who did not evacuate were set face to face with the enemy in their sparse twenty-five square miles of territory.

They carried on with their lives as best they could, but as food became more scarce and as German rules became more complicated, the islanders had to become more resourceful. Amelia Maugery had come into the possession of a contraband pig and invited a group of friends and neighbors to a secret party to partake in a grand meal. It was a lovely moment in an otherwise grim time. Later that evening, as the group made their way home, they were stopped by a German patrol. They were clearly in violation of curfew.

Elizabeth, a member of the group, took charge of her sated, slightly tipsy, friends and became their spokesperson. To prevent their arrest, she

notes

invented the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society on the spot. Astonishingly, the Germans excused them and allowed them to go home.

After the war, journalist Juliet Ashton became aware of the islanders' stories through shared correspondence. The more letters she received, the more interested she became in the letter writers. Hoping to write a new book, Juliet moved to Guernsey to investigate. Her initial curiosity and admiration eventually turned into a real love for the people and the island.

This charming and touching story reveals the emotional details of the harsh, five-year long, German occupation of this tiny British protectorate. It is a new story to add to the already substantial catalogue of WWII tales.

Keys to the Novel

The Benefits of Reading

- The advantages of reading stimulate a curiosity that is intellectual and exploratory: Why do people read or not read? Can they be changed by a specific book, author or books in general? Can a non-reader become an active reader? What rewards do books bring to a reader? These questions, along with exploring the benefits of reading, can be of interest to both readers and writers.
- The proliferation of book clubs around the world demonstrates the tremendous relationship between books and socialization. People enjoy getting together to discuss, share, and argue their interpretations of the written word. However, there are also millions of readers who prefer to enjoy their books in solitude. For these readers, a book can be a restorative tonic for the individual spirit.
- As Juliet says, if nothing else, *“reading keeps you from going gaga.”* (p.32)



**Thanks for previewing this
Bookclub-in-a-Box discussion guide.**

**If you'd like to purchase the full guide in
print or PDF format, just visit:**

www.bookclubinabox.com/discussion-guides