

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

# *The* Help

*a novel*



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# BOOK CLUB Discussion

1. "The Help" is set against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. How does the historical context impact the characters' lives and choices, and what insights does the novel provide into the challenges and prejudices of that era?
2. The novel features multiple narrators, each with a unique voice and perspective. How does this narrative structure enhance your understanding of the story and its themes?
3. Aibileen and Minny are two central characters whose stories unfold throughout the book. How do their experiences as black maids shape their relationships with the white families they work for, as well as their sense of self-worth?
4. Skeeter's decision to write the book "Help" is a pivotal moment in the story. How does her evolving awareness of racial inequality drive her to take this action, and what risks and rewards does she face as a result?
5. The relationships between the white women and their maids are complex and often contradictory. How does the novel explore the dynamics of power, friendship, and dependence in these relationships?
6. The act of storytelling and sharing personal experiences is a recurring theme in the novel. How does storytelling serve as a form of empowerment and resistance for the characters, and how does it influence the wider community?
7. Miss Hilly is portrayed as a deeply prejudiced and controlling character. How does her character contribute to the racial tensions in the story, and what motivates her behavior?
8. The novel explores the concept of "separate but equal" and the division between white and black communities. How do characters like Skeeter and Celia Foote challenge these divisions, and what impact do their actions have?
9. The "Terrible Awful" incident involving Minny and Miss Hilly is a turning point in the story. How does this event affect Minny's life and relationships, and how does it contribute to her growing sense of agency?
10. The book ends with a sense of hope and solidarity among the women, despite the risks they face. How does the novel's conclusion leave you thinking about the characters' futures and the broader implications of their actions?