



Discover. Read. Share.

The Girls in the Stilt House DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Matilda finds herself at a crossroads: tell her father about Frank's theft and threats or keep it a secret. She ultimately chooses to keep the secret. Why do you think she does this? What would you do?
- Do you think Matilda went to Ada's with the intention of killing Virgil or was it a coincidence?
- Compare Ada and Matilda. They are very different, but in what ways are they similar?
- Are Virgil Morgan and Frank Bowers comparable villains? How does social class affect their actions and demands? Do you think they got what they deserved?
- There are quite a few tragic moments in this book. Which one hit you the hardest? Why?
- Ada relied on Matilda for many things. Do you think Matilda needed Ada? Why or why not? Do you think Ada would have been okay on her own?
- What do you think is Matilda's central motivation for staying with Ada?
- Matilda has to deal with the loss of many loved ones in a very short amount of time. How do you think she handles her grief? Which loss was the most difficult for you to read?
- How does Ada change or evolve throughout this story? What can be learned from her journey? What about Matilda? Their relationship??
- What was your favorite or most memorable passage in the book? Why did it make such an impression?
- Matilda held some resentment for Ada. Why? Do you think it was fair?
- Compare and contrast Matilda's passion for writing and Ada's passion for sewing. How did these passions lead to their freedom?
- Where do you think Matilda, Ada, and Annis are in five years? Ten?

Eager to keep *The Girls in the Stilt House* discussion going? Check out our exclusive Author Q&A with Kelly Mustian, plus a Meeting Planner and Recommended Next Reads, available at theclub.hoopladigital.com.

