Angel Samata

Discussion Question Instructor Guide

\*Some of these questions can be left to interpretation; while others have a singular answers. This is to give students examples of what kind of responses I am looking for

**PRE-READING**

1. What can you infer about the story from the title The Diviners?  
 - Divine, meaning having god like powers and because its plural I can assume there’s more than one character in this novel that possess supernatural powers.  
2. Would you like to live in the 1920’s?  
 - Yes, I have always been interested in 1920’s fashion and music and think it would be to be around when woman were first coming of age in society with equal rights  
3. What does occult mean?

- Supernatural, mystical, or magical beliefs, practices, or phenomena.  
5. What are characteristics of 1920’s city life?  
 - Fast pace and busy, and rarely a dull moment with activists, bootleggers, raids and riots. There was also an emphasis on over the top elegance, where even a lower class city goer could enjoy a night of decadence with feather boas, champagne, dancers and big band jazz music.   
**READER RESPONSE**

1. What similarities do you see in 1920’s youth and today’s youth?

- Similarities I see in 1920’s youth and today’s is language. In the story I noticed some of the more fast talking New Yorkers using slang, similar today how young people follow trends in slang and dance. I also notice that fashion was a big deal to city goers, following strict trends like shorter dresses and hair bobbing, similar to today with bold new styles like pleather clothes and bold hair colors.

2. Which character do you identify with the most, what are similarities you share?

- I identify most with Evie, in the way she always tries to put on a show for people when secretly she might be upset or sad. In the way that it is easier to laugh and have fun then to confront your emotional issues. I have not experienced anything as horrific as losing a family member the way Evie lost her brother, but in more everyday situations if I am just bummed or sad I try to replace it with fun and happiness.

3. Which character do you identify with the least, how are you different?

- I think the character I identify the least with is Mable. She seems timid and unsure of herself sometimes, mostly because she hasn’t really figured out who she is because her parents are always forcing their ideas and beliefs on her. While I agree that my parents have influenced me in a good way in what I believe and stand for I know that if I felt differently they would not try to change me purely because they think their belief system is better.

**Interpretive Community**

2. What incidents in Evie’s life define her the most?

- I think the death of her brother has brought a great deal of change to Evie emotionally and with the relationships she keeps with others. For instance the first time Evie found she could object read and it was when she held her mother’s pin and realized in that moment that her mother had wished it had been Evie and not her brother who was gone. Situations like that can change a person and I think because of it Evie is a much more independent person, but also guarded in what she lets others known about her.

**Critical Synthesis**

Feminism- Evie is often undermined because she is a young man, how does she use this against the people who undermine her?

* Because Evie is a young woman is often undermined in whether or not she can handle certain instances, but she uses this to her advantage to achieve certain things. For instance, when she is at the murder scene and she is examining the body she can get close enough to get an object reading on the person so she can further her investigations. But when a police officer sees her and asks what she is doing, she replies meekly, “Praying”, and walks away. Evie used her stereotype and a young woman, too innocent to handle a murder scene, to ward off suspicions from the officer. This way she was able to get what she needed without blowing her cover, if the officer had viewed her as equal he might have been more suspicious of what she was doing.