

SISTERS ONE, TWO, THREE

READING GUIDE

1. In the prologue, we learn that Ginger has kept a big secret from her daughter. Later, Ginger learns others have kept secrets from her. Do you think these characters are keeping secrets to protect someone else or to protect themselves? Does it make a difference? Are secrets ever okay to keep?
2. Glory Tangle makes some questionable decisions. Given the circumstances, do you think her decisions are understandable or unforgivable? Were they made out of love, desperation, or something else? Do you think her parenting style was typical for the time? Did your opinion about Glory change by the end of the book?
3. Being a worrier affects every part of Ginger's life, from her choice of profession to her ability to mother. Do you think she was like this before the family tragedy? How much did the tragedy change her? If Ginger had grown up in a family with Glory and Solly as parents but *without* that terrible day at the beach, how might she have been different?
4. Mimi thinks Ginger was Glory's favorite. Ginger thinks Callie was Glory's favorite. Do you think Glory had a favorite? If so, who was it? Among the three sisters—Ginger, Mimi, and Callie—did you have a favorite? By the end of the book, had your opinion about any of them changed? How?
5. The story moves back and forth, in time and place. How did this affect your reading experience? How do you think the experience would have been different if the story had been told in two parts, the past first and then the present-day?
6. Ginger and Julia have a difficult relationship. If you had been in Ginger's position, what would you have done about Julia and Nick? What parallels do you see between the conflict Ginger faces with Julia and the conflicts Glory faced with her daughters? Which do you think is more damaging: holding on too tightly or letting go too soon?
7. When Charlie shows off his ant farm to Thomas, Thomas asks him, "How can that many ants share one measly drop of water?" Think about this as a metaphor for the Tangle children. Did you find Glory and Solly to be stingy with their love? What adaptations did the four Tangle children make in order to thrive in their childhood home?
8. At the end of the book, Ginger wonders whether Casper Diggans was really a threat or whether, as a young teenager, she'd perceived things that weren't really there. What do you think? What made her mistrust him? Does Casper have any responsibility for what happened to Ginger's family? Evelyn says people think she has responsibility. Do you?
9. Discuss the character of Callie. What turned out right for her? What turned out wrong?
10. Let's look into the future: Do you think Callie will move back to be close to her sisters? What kind of relationship do you think the Tangle sisters will have? How long do you think Julia will be away? How do you think her relationship with Ginger will change when she returns?