

Discussion Questions

1. What impact did Precious Boone and Lillian Crawford's manipulation of Justine Russell change her from being an innocent teenage schoolgirl into the woman she would eventually become?
2. Do you believe Justine should have told Kenny about his existence earlier in the novel? How do you think it would have changed his life?
3. Do you believe it was anger and resentment that would not allow Justine to love or trust anyone other than her son? Explain your answer.
4. What was the common thread that made Kenny, Frankie, and Ray lifelong friends despite their racial and ethnic differences?
5. Discuss in detail the interactions Kenny had with his mother when growing up, and how it affected his relationships with women.
6. Frankie mentioned he was guilty of breaking a number of the seven deadly sins. Which ones do you think he was referring to?
7. Ray's lustful desires almost cost him his life. Was the incident the reason for him to go from saving lives to saving souls?
8. Do you believe Justine became a romantic substitute for Francis's unrequited love with his high school girlfriend? Or did he truly love her?
9. Describe how different Justine's life would have been if she had married Francis. Do you believe once they reconnected that they were able to share the intimacy that hadn't been possible before?

10. There are a few parallels and references to biblical events in the novel. Are there any you can connect with and why?
11. Discuss how the need for revenge, retribution, and forgiveness affected the lives of Justine, Kenny, Frankie, Francis, and Ray.
12. There were a few references to actual historic events. How many do you remember or you weren't aware of?
13. What about *Between Good and Evil* did you like or dislike? Did you find the ending satisfying?