

Angelhood

Discussion Questions



1. Nanette remembers when she and Ally had to draw pictures of what they thought heaven would be like. What do you imagine heaven is like? Can you relate to any of Nanette's or Ally's ideas?
2. In chapter 2, Vera curls up in her bed and asks God why she's so alone. Clearly, Nanette felt alone when she made the decision to take her own life. What advice would you give to someone who said they felt all alone? What would you do if *you* felt like you were alone and no one could help you?
3. Read all of Emily Dickinson's poem "Because I Could Not Stop for Death." Do you think Vera's interpretation of the opening lines was correct?
4. What do we learn about Nanette from her memories of the Easter dress and her rejection letter from the theater school?
5. Why do you think Nanette only sees shadows outside Vera's church and not inside?
6. Warren tells Nanette that she'll see more of her body and her wings will become more visible as she grows in grace. What do you think that means? What is grace to you, and how can we all grow in grace?
7. On the night she died, Nanette was upset over many things. What else could she have done to have handled all her pain and loss better?
8. At Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, the Guardians help protect a girl who's been shot by a gang member. When the parish priest arrives, he says he received a mysterious phone call telling him someone needed his help at the front of the church. Have you ever received help in a mysterious way and wondered if God had sent an angel to help you?
9. Warren tells Nanette that God is like the sun, always there, even on the cloudy days when we can't see him. Do you think this is a helpful way of picturing God's presence? How else might you describe God's presence to someone who argues that God doesn't exist?

- 10. Warren tries to teach Nanette to remember the good times. Is this a good coping strategy for depression? What other coping strategies do you know?**
- 11. Nanette is happy that Vera's German teacher uses music one day in class because she believes it helps take Vera's mind off her grief. Do you believe music can be a source of therapy? Why?**
- 12. The shadows seem to come running whenever a character falls into despair. For example, cheating students make Ms. Kitchin so upset that a shadow comes and haunts her. What does this tell us about how our actions have consequences not just for ourselves but for others as well?**
- 13. How does guarding a Charge at the same high school as her sister make things more difficult for Nanette?**
- 14. Why do you think Nanette remembers playing the role of Emily in *Our Town* after seeing her sister Cecille so upset?**
- 15. Warren keeps leaving Nanette to research information about Ms. Kitchin. How does this make Nanette feel? Do you think Nanette is selfish for feeling this way?**
- 16. Nanette's first solo flight requires her to trust that her wings will work when she leaps from the top of the school building. How does this show how much Nanette has changed?**
- 17. Nanette is warned that she should pay more attention to Vera than to her sister, but she can't seem to leave her sister alone. Do you think this is a smart decision? Why or why not?**
- 18. What do you think happened at the end? Some believe it was a dream. Others believe Nanette almost died and God "sent her back." What do you think happened? If you had to write a sequel, what do you think would happen next?**