

Book Club Questions – The Starfish Sisters

The Starfish Sisters is about the relationship between Suze and Phoebe, but their relationship is also intertwined with the girls' relationships with other characters, namely Beryl and Joel. How do these relationships keep them together? How do they drive the girls apart?

Is there a difference between blood sisters and sisters of the heart? How do these relationships differ? How are they the same?

The role of grandmothers plays a big part in The Starfish Sisters. What does this generational connection mean to the story? What has it meant in your own life?

Art in many forms—painting, acting, gardening, baking—is a stabilizing current in the flow of the book. What do these outlets provide for the characters in the story? What do they provide in your own life?

What did you think about the use of the girls' journal as a storytelling technique? Did you like how it gave readers a glimpse into Suze and Phoebe's history? Why or why not?

What would you say are the main themes of the book?

Did you have a favorite character in the book? Who was it and what made you choose this character over all the others?

What do you think this book says about friendship? About love?

The Starfish Sisters is considered a work of women's fiction but there is also a mystery and some romance in the story. What did you think of these other aspects to the book's plot? Did you like these parts of the book? Why or why not?

The Starfish Sisters is the first Barbara O'Neal book set on the moody, rocky shore of the Oregon coast. How do you think this setting contributed to the book?

Have you read other books by Barbara O'Neal? How does this book compare to her other ones? In what ways is it similar and how is it different?