

In the Fullness of Time

Study Questions

1. Hattie compared the way men elevated women onto pedestals for their virtue, to “a prison without bars.” What did she mean by this statement? How did that attitude impede the suffrage movement?
2. How were Charles and Percy different and alike? What bonds did they share that would cause Charles to pay off Percy’s debt?
3. Much of the dialogue takes place through telephone conversations. How effective are Alice’s “phone habits” in advancing the story?
4. How is Alice changed by the death of her sister, Willie Mae? What do we learn about Willie Mae in Chapter 13 that allows Alice to move on?
5. When the point of view in the story changes from Hattie to Charles, what do we find out about Charles that we didn’t know before? How had Charles’ attitude toward Hattie changed between his first and last visit to see Julia?
6. In chapter 23, how does the bridesmaid’s luncheon reveal the differences in the Barton family members, in their attitudes about the proper role of women? Which of the women around the table represents your feelings best?
7. Which of the main characters—Hattie, Charles, or Alice—changed the most over the course of the story? Explain your answer.
8. Which of the minor characters would you nominate for playing his/her role most effectively? Why? (Charles Jr., Richard, Georgia, Pauline, Mary, Rosa, Earline, Velma, Lila Givens, Julia, Will)