



***In Hovering Flight* by Joyce Hinnefeld**

Discussion Questions

1. What was your immediate response to the novel? Do you have someone in your life with a strong interest or activism in a particular area and did that affect your reading of the book?
2. What do think about the debate that art should/should not be or is/is not political? Do you agree with Addie's assessment of herself as an artist at the end of the book?
3. How would you describe the tone & style of the book? Did you have problems with anything? Why?

4. What themes do you find echoed in the titles of each of the novel's parts? I – field notebooks; II – k-selected species; III – proximate & ultimate causes; IV – zugunruhe; V – hypotheticals.
5. How would you describe the portrait of family life, marriage, & friendship as presented in the novel? Whose story is it, do you think?
6. Does your opinion of Addie change over the course of the novel? Why or why not?
7. In what ways can you find that Hinnefeld uses birds and bird song as symbols, or metaphors, in the novel?
8. Do you believe that Addie ever really saw the Cuvier's Kinglet? What is it symbolic of, if anything, to you?
9. How did or did not the inclusion of the events of 9/11 affect your reading of the novel? Why? How well do you think the author handled this part of the narrative?
10. Would you recommend this novel to a friend to read?

Why/why not? (readinggroupguides.com)

