

Morsels for the Mind Book Group

Date: July 21, 2011

Book Title: Mudbound by Hillary Jordan

Hostess: Nancy Dausman

Food Served: Presented as a time line of foods found in the book: Biscuits and Apple Butter, Figs, Pecans, Licorice, Edamame Dip and Crackers, Chicken Bites, Cornbread and Honey, Vegetable Tray and Dip, Mud Pie.

Book Synopsis: This is a story of two families, the McAllans and the Jacksons, living in the Mississippi Delta after World War II. The McAllans are a white family and own the cotton farm where both families live. The other family, the Jacksons, are black tenant farmers, who share a percentage of their crops with the owner, Henry McAllan. Each family has a family member who served in the war and they have returned to the farm to live with their families. The two returning veterans develop an unlikely friendship during this time of ingrained bigotry. Each of the family members becomes a player in this tragedy and they tell their parts of the story in their own words in separate chapters.

Review: Everyone enjoyed the book and learned more about the struggles that returning veterans had after the end of World War II. One of the reviews from Amazon didn't like the first chapter, but all in attendance thought it was a great way to get us hooked and wanting to know more about how and why Pappy died.

Highlights of Discussion: Most were disappointed that Laura, Henry's wife, wasn't more assertive when dealing with her husband and father-in-law. Everyone admired Florence and her ability to maintain her composure during times of tension, especially with her interactions with Henry's father, Pappy, who was a bigoted individual that expected everyone to wait on him and bend to his will.

Attendance:

Anne S.	Nancy S.	Nancy M.	Nancy D.
Julie	Laura	Sandy	

Suggestions/ Business: The next meeting will be held at Nancy S.'s on August 18th to discuss the book The Madonnas of Leningrad.