

**Morsels of the Mind Book Group**

**Date:** January 20, 2005

**Book Title:** My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

**Hostess:** Nancy Schellenberg

**Food Served:** Sun-dried tomato pesto spread, marinated mushrooms, minestrone, tortellini salad, breadsticks, bread pudding, Frascati and Montepulciano wines.

**Book Synopsis:** A child is conceived as a donor for an older sister battling leukemia. The novel centers around Anna's refusal to continue being a donor for Kate, her older sister. Many legal, moral and ethical issues ensue as the family struggles through medical, legal and emotional crises.

**Review:** Generally, reviews were positive. Any negative reviews dealt with the ending, which was quite a twist! The author successfully used different family voices in her chapters, and used foreshadowing well. Picoult deals with tough subjects and family interactions brilliantly.

**Highlights of Discussion:** We discussed the ending: was it irony or a cop-out by the author? Quite a discussion ensued. We talked about the dynamics of the family, and decided the mother couldn't win no matter what she did. We discussed Jesse and his arson.

Laura shared her experiences being the mother of a young child with leukemia. We agreed that we would like to read more of Jodi Picoult's books.

**Attendance:** Ginny and Linda were absent.

**Suggestions/Business:** We added The Kite Runner to our March list. Optional: attending the County-wide Book Selection on March 22.