

Morsels For the Mind Book Group

Date: September 11, 2013

Book Title: The Last Runaway by Tracy Chevalier

Hostess: Nancy Schellenberg

Food Served: Irish Cheddar with spiced peach chutney, Fiesta Bean Salsa with shaved corn kernels, Kettle Corn, Peach- Strawberry Crisp, wine, iced tea, fruit juices, soda, coffee.

Book Synopsis: Jilted, Honor Bright leaves England accompanying her sister to America. Her horrific crossing leaves her doubtful of a return to her home. America presents many trials and disappointments, including her sister's death. In rural Ohio among strangers, she must find a home among strangers and even stranger customs.

Review: The Morsels liked the book, and disagreed with reviewers who thought that Honor lacked enough spice and gumption. We felt that for a young girl far from home, she stood up for her convictions, including the Quaker belief that all humans be treated equally. Her stance against slavery and her aid to runaway slaves put her at odds with her family and Quaker community. Honor finds friends in unlikely places in Belle and Mrs. Reed, two of our favorite characters!

Highlights of Discussion: Some wore bonnets, one wore a bonnet and a brief vow of silence, just like Honor. We played a character "Who Am I?" activity which kicked off our discussion. I shared the GRAM exhibit brochure "The Improvisational Quilts of Susana Allen Hunter" and our family heirloom quilts to honor Honor's stitching.

Attendance: 2 Annes, Ginny, Laura, and 3 Nancys

Suggestions/Business: We agreed not to choose books after a long discussion in the future, since it's too tiring to choose passionately after our book chat. From now on, we'll devote a meeting to book selection only. Nancy McQuate sent out the list of Future Books. Laura sent out our new book list.