

BOOK CLUB GUIDE

Shady Hollow by Juneau Black

1 *Shady Hollow* is structured as a detective novel, with the twist that the characters are anthropomorphic animals. How did this aspect alter your experience of reading?

2 Mystery writers seek to surprise the reader with the “whodunit” while still making the reveal feel realistic and believable. How skillful was the author in burying the clues?

3 Crime writers tease readers with red herrings—false clues—to purposely lead us astray. Were you tripped up or misled by any false clues? Did you have a different suspect in mind than the ones Vera investigated?

4 In general, do you try to solve a mystery as you read, or do you prefer to follow along with the detective and be surprised at the end?

5 The author uses multiple points of view in telling the story, not solely that of the detective. How did this affect your reading of the story and your appreciation of the book?

6 *Shady Hollow* is an example of the “cozy” mystery genre, which emphasizes character and world-building as a way to entertain the reader. Did you have a favorite character? How vivid was the town of *Shady Hollow*?

7 Would you compare this book to other mysteries, and if so, which ones? Was there a tone or style in *Shady Hollow* that reminded you of other books (or even TV/movies)?

8 Even though the characters are not human, issues of class, gender, and “otherness” still crop up. How did you view these issues in the story, and were they more or less apparent when set in a world of animals?

9 What kind of pie would you order at Joe’s Mug?