

Reading Group Guide

The Test

1. In the beginning, did you think that Paul's will would accomplish his goal? Did you think that his plan was well intended? Sincere or contrived?
2. How did you think that Frank would fare? What were your early impressions of Frank and did they change during the story?
3. How did you judge Dan's personality? Weak or strong? And did it change throughout the story?
4. How can two brothers, three years apart in age, differ so drastically in their life choices?
5. How could Ashley's background have allowed her to become a victim, seemingly so effortlessly?
6. Was Conrad a believable character? Are there predators like him among us? Does he have redeeming qualities?
7. Did the concept of genetics vs. environment factor into the behavior of Rory, not a Parnell by blood, and of Monica, genetically a Parnell, but not raised in the Parnell environment?
8. In a realistic world, did you rate Carla's chances for recovery as high or low?
9. How do you think that Ashley would have handled her circumstance once she knew the truth about Conrad?
10. What do you think about attempts to "rule from the grave"? Can such schemes ever work?