

SO PIPE THE YOUNG

READERS GUIDE



Book Club Pick

About the Book

After a murder on her kindergartner's playground, a robotics engineer abandons her career and uproots her family for the safety of country life, but something sinister follows.

Questions

In the first chapter, Annabelle hopes and fears her job will be replaced by a robot. In what ways do her conflicting views on technology guide her decisions?

What does it reveal about Annabelle that she paints her human subjects as "sloe-eyed and expressionless"?

What criteria have you used to choose a new home? How were your criteria similar or different from Annabelle's? Would the Grangers have moved if it weren't for Heath's playground discovery?

Annabelle says, "It is easier to fix a robot than a child." How does repairing a robot and healing a child represent similar and different processes?

What preconceptions about rural life were shattered for Annabelle?

The adage "As the Old Sing, So Pipe the Young" from which the title is derived refers to bad examples set by adults influencing children. What are the bad examples in this story and how do they influence The Six?

What role does Maud, the deaf flea-bitten dog, play in the story?

Annabelle describes her hands as her best feature. How does she use her hands and what makes them her best feature?

How did Dan Quintana's narration change your perspective on Box Elder? How did Paul Granger's narration change your perspective on Annabelle?

There is a sheep and shepherd metaphor running through the story. Which characters are sheep and which the shepherds?

How does Annabelle change throughout the story?

Is Annabelle a sympathetic character?



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