



# The Perfect Child by Lucinda Berry

## Book Club Questions

- What drew Christopher and Hannah to the idea of adopting Janie?
- How does Janie's arrival impact the dynamics of Christopher and Hannah's marriage?
- How did you feel about the dynamic between Christopher and Hannah at the beginning of the story, and how did it evolve throughout the book?
- Discuss Janie's character development throughout the novel. Did your perception of her change as the story progressed?
- What were your initial impressions of Janie, and how did those impressions shift as the story unfolded?
- Explore the theme of parental instincts and the desire for a child.
- Analyze the impact of Janie's past on her present behavior. How did her experiences shape her actions, and do you believe her behavior was justified?
- How did Christopher and Hannah's desperation to have a child influence their decisions?
- Discuss the role of manipulation and control in the relationships between Christopher, Hannah, and Janie. How did power dynamics influence their interactions?
- Consider the theme of trust within the novel. How did Christopher and Hannah's trust in each other and in Janie change over time?
- Reflect on the significance of the title, "The Perfect Child." How does it relate to the characters' perceptions of Janie and their expectations for her?
- Discuss the moral dilemmas faced by the characters throughout the book. Were there any decisions they made that you found particularly challenging or thought-provoking?
- In what ways does Janie's behavior become increasingly disturbing?



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- How do Christopher and Hannah's professions influence their perception of Janie's needs?
- Explore the theme of manipulation in the relationship between Janie, Christopher, and Hannah.
- How does the author create suspense throughout the story?
- Discuss the character development of Christopher and Hannah as they navigate parenthood.
- What role does trust play in Christopher and Hannah's relationship with Janie?
- Analyze the concept of a "perfect child" in the context of the story.
- How does the setting of the hospital contribute to the overall atmosphere of the book?
- Discuss the symbolism of Janie's actions and their impact on Christopher and Hannah.
- Explore the theme of psychological trauma in the novel.
- Analyze the role of empathy in the characters' interactions with each other.
- How does the author build tension between the characters?
- Discuss the impact of Janie's behavior on Christopher and Hannah's mental health.
- Explore the theme of identity and belonging in the novel.
- How do societal expectations influence Christopher and Hannah's decision to adopt Janie?
- How does Christopher's role as a husband and father differ in his affection towards Janie compared to his affection towards Hannah?



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- Analyze the role of trauma in shaping Janie's personality.
- Explore the theme of sacrifice in the story.
- Discuss the moral ambiguity surrounding Christopher and Hannah's actions.
- How does the narrative structure contribute to the suspense of the story?
- Analyze the symbolism of the hospital environment in the book.
- Discuss the challenges of parenting a child with behavioral issues.
- How do Christopher and Hannah's perspectives differ regarding Janie's behavior?
- Explore the theme of unconditional love in the novel.
- Reflect on the ending of the book and its implications for the characters' future.
- How does the shocking discovery of Janie affect Christopher, Hannah, and Piper individually?
- What challenges do Christopher and Hannah face when considering taking Janie into their home?
- How does Lucinda Berry use alternating perspectives to build suspense throughout the novel?
- In what ways does the author explore themes of trauma and resilience through Janie's story?
- Explore the ending of the novel and its implications for the characters. Did you find the resolution satisfying, or were there unanswered questions that lingered for you?
- In what ways does Dr. Lucinda Berry integrate her expertise as a former clinical psychologist and renowned researcher in childhood trauma to enrich the storytelling in her novel?



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- How does the novel challenge traditional narratives of adoption and parenthood through the lens of Christopher and Hannah's experience with Janie, considering her unconventional origins and complex psyche?
- Discuss Dr. Lucinda Berry's unique approach to weaving medical expertise into the fabric of suspense fiction.
- What are the key surprises and revelations in the story, and how do they add to the main plot?