

A GOOD YEAR

by Polis Loizou

QUESTIONS

- Why do you think the author chose to structure the book around the twelve days of Christmas, and what effect does this structure have?
- How does the author draw on folklore and superstitions to craft the story? Have you ever used folklore as a source of inspiration in your own writing?
- What techniques does the author use to evoke the setting and historical period?
- Religion and guilt are recurring themes in the book. What function do they have and how does the author weave them into the story?
- The author uses close third-person narration to tell the story from multiple points of view. What is the effect of this kind of narration? How different would the story be if told in the first person, and/or from just one character's point of view?
- What do you think are the challenges and advantages of writing from the point of view of a pregnant character like Despo?
- How would you describe the author's prose style? Did it remind you of any other authors?
- The novel's ending is somewhat open to interpretation. As a writer, do you prefer to leave the endings of stories open in this way, or to resolve them more neatly?

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WRITING EXERCISES

A) Write a 1,000-word passage that draws on an aspect of folklore.

OR

B) Write a 500-word passage from the point of view of a pregnant woman.

NOTES
