

VOTING DAY

by Clare O'Dea

QUESTIONS

- Why do you think the author chose to tell the story from the points of view of four different women?
- What is the effect of the use of multiple perspectives, and how do they contrast with one another?
- Only one of the four main characters (Beatrice) is actively engaged in the campaign for women's voting rights. Why do you think the author primarily chose to focus on the everyday lives of women who are not politically active?
- What techniques does the author use to evoke the setting and historical period?
- What is the effect of setting the story on the day of the referendum, but keeping the political events mostly in the background rather than at the forefront of the plot?
- Would you say this book has a 'message' or moral? And in general, do you think fiction can play a part in raising awareness of political and social issues?
- How would you describe the author's writing style? How did it shape your experience as a reader, and are there aspects you would like to emulate in your own writing?
- What are the challenges and advantages of writing fiction based on real historical events?

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WRITING EXERCISES

A) Write a 1,000-word passage from the point of view of someone living through a significant historical event, exploring how this affects (or does not affect) their everyday life.

OR

B) Write two 500-word scenes describing the same moment from the point of view of two different characters.

NOTES
