

ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021 AT ERLIS WICKERSHAM'S AND ON
ZOOM. NEW TIME 2 p.m.

SCHLINK, BERNHARD, THE READER (1995)
Discussion Questions

1. Any general comment you'd like to make, question you'd like to raise?
2. Information about Schlink and German literature or art concerning WWII.
3. What kind of novel is this? Any comments about its language and structure? What narrative technique is employed? How many characters are there?
4. What is your opinion of the author's schoolboy experience with Hanna?
5. What positive aspects does the author say it possessed? Is the author's opinion also *your* opinion?
6. What was your first impression of the reasons why he read to her?
7. Why does he study law? Is it too much of a coincidence that he becomes aware of Hanna's trial? How *does* he learn about it?
8. What ethical problems does the author treat in the part of the book describing Hanna's trial?
9. Do you understand why she would do anything rather than admit she can't read or write? Does the author's father give him good advice about revealing her secret, whether she would wish him to do so or not?
10. What about her experiences in prison? Why does the author send her tapes and continue to read to her?
11. How has his relationship with Hanna affected his life? Is such a profound effect possible, in your opinion?
12. Why does Hanna commit suicide?

13. What is this book really about? In what way is it different from other books about WWII?
14. Does it answer questions about guilt and innocence? In what way(s)?
15. What was most memorable in your reading experience? And why?