

Discussion Questions for Buried Seeds

1. The Prologue uses a Jenga game as a metaphor for social change. Can you identify the moment that triggered a collapse of the existing norms in any recent social movements?
2. What tensions exist in Angie's family? In what ways do Angie's struggles parallel those experienced by many women in our culture?
3. As the novel progresses, Angie develops more confidence as she is forced outside her comfort zone. What has caused her lack of confidence? What events help her develop new strengths? Have you ever been forced outside of your comfort zone? If so, how did you change as a result?
4. What enables Angie and MacKenzie to overcome their sibling rivalry?
5. Even as a child, Rosella rebels against restrictions placed upon her sex. How does her lifelong rebellion deliver both sorrow and happiness?
6. Angie poses this question: "Is it possible to have both love and self-determination?" (97) For most of human existence, marriage was seen as a transaction to achieve financial and social stability. How have modern attitudes changed? What benefits and problems have accompanied the changes? Consider Rosella's marital options: Gunner Beck, Jack Joyner, Val Martin. Discuss the success or failure of other women's choices: Alexandra Underwood, Mindy Kenneson, Angie Fisher, MacKenzie McNeil.
7. Women have made considerable progress toward securing rights in the last century, many of which we take for granted, as the Susan B. Anthony epigraph that opens the novel foreshadows. What work still remains for women to achieve equity?
8. What meanings did you find in the novel's title?