

Along the Garden Path

1. How would you describe Addison? What drives her? Was her portrayal realistic? Can you relate to her?
2. Does Mason seem realistic? How do you think he fits in with the McLean community?
3. Why do you think Mason's parents don't want him to follow in their footsteps?
4. Describe the relationship between Addison and her mother, Elizabeth. How do you think her mother has influenced her career choice and her attraction to Mason?
5. What does Addison learn about herself throughout the book?
6. Do you think Elizabeth Erhard made the correct choice by marrying Derrek despite her concerns? Would you have liked to learn more about Mason's mother?
7. Was the premise of the book interesting? Why or why not? What did you learn about the pressures kids live under?
8. How did the hit-and-run accident change the dynamics of the story, and the relationship between Addison and Mason?
9. Were you surprised by how Mason and Addison approach solving the mystery? Explain why or why not.
10. As you were reading, did you have an idea of who might have hit Jamison?
11. How does the author develop the relationship between Addison and Mason? Is it realistic?
12. Is it a continuous story...or interlocking short stories?
13. Why might the author have chosen to tell the story from third person perspective, rather than first? What are the benefits and drawback?
14. What difference does the structure make in the way you read or understand the book?
15. What main ideas—**themes**—does the author explore? (Consider the title, often a clue to a theme.)
16. Does the author use **symbols** to reinforce the main ideas?
17. What **passages** strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps a bit of the dialog that's funny or poignant or that encapsulates a character? Maybe there's a particular comment that states the book's thematic concerns?
18. Is the **ending** satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?
19. If you could ask the **author** a question, what would you ask?
20. Has this novel **changed you**—broadened your perspective? Have you learned something new or been exposed to different ideas about people or a certain part of the world?