

1. The novel is narrated by a benevolent ghost who witnesses the events that happen. Why does she stay so close to Willow?
2. If it were possible (who knows) what deceased ancestor would be most interested in your life? Why? Do you sometimes feel that ancestor is trying to help?
3. In the beginning of the novel, Papa is a strong father, but later he goes through dramatic changes. Does what he endures, and the secrets he keeps from Willow, strengthen or weaken him as “father?”
4. Are there people in your life who have withheld secrets believing they were protecting you? What was the end result? Beneficial or detrimental?
5. In childhood, Willow sees herself as unattractive. Though her shoulder becomes insignificant as she ages, she clings to the childhood perception and can’t put the issue down. Are there erroneous perceptions—perhaps left over from childhood—that still play havoc in your life? Or in the life of someone you know?
6. Every major character in the novel is both saint and sinner. Discuss how you identify with each, though you may not agree with their actions.
7. Novels expose issues, but shouldn’t try to solve them. What issues do you think *Farthest House* exposes? Did reading about these make you rethink former positions?
8. Even in their darkest moments, art plays a significant role in each of the lives of the Starmore women. Discuss how it has saved each. Is there an art that’s healed or led to growth in your life?
9. What does Catholicism mean to Willow, Papa, Mémé? How was it like a character in the novel?
10. In the end, Willow lives in the house where four have died. Would you move to a house where so much has happened? Why does she? How does she view *Farthest House*? Do you have a place that’s near-sacred to you?
11. Is Amelie a villain for covering up Tory’s deed? Could she have done more for Jonah? Do you understand why Jonah remained at *Farthest House*? Would you have stayed under those circumstances?
12. In childhood, Willow sees herself as unattractive. Though her shoulder becomes insignificant as she ages, she struggles to put the issue down. Are there erroneous self-perceptions—perhaps left from your childhood—that still play havoc in your life? Or in the life of someone you know?

13. Willow would now be entering the last third of her life—her crone years. What do you think she's done with her life? Would you want to be this elder woman's friend? Why?