
The Bone Garden

Posted by Mary Dunn - 2009/07/19 10:37

Our August Community Read discussion will bring us to Tess's book, The Bone Garden.

I have to be honest and say that so far The Bone Garden is my favorite book by Tess, hands down. :kiss: I love the historical story that takes place in Boston during the 1830's. Its historical perspective on medicine is both interesting and horrifying! It gives, "wash your hands", a new depth to its meaning. The current day portion of this medical thriller is set in rural Massachusetts and Islesboro, Maine.

:huh: Stay tuned for Tess's write up about how she conducted her background research for this amazing book, The Bone Garden.

Mary

Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Dawn Pray - 2009/07/31 15:45

I am almost finished this book- I can't wait to sit down and finally finish it! The first letter grabbed my attention and I am constantly trying to figure out how all of the characters are related...Can't wait to begin this discussion! :laugh:

Thanks for introducing me to this wonderful book! I also just picked up The Surgeon- and will be starting it as soon as I am finished!

-D

Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Mary Dunn - 2009/08/03 20:50

Hi Dawn!

Glad you are enjoying The Bone Garden! What do you like about this book? I just loved it too. I love historical fictions so to see that woven throughout this story just made my day! And Tess does it in such a way that you just can't put it down! She is so good at descriptions that you can visualize her scenes so well.

Mary

Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Mary Dunn - 2009/08/03 21:01

Happy August 3rd and welcome to the second book of our summer community read, The Bone Garden!

As I mentioned when we began our summer read with Gravity, the purpose of this summer read is to read adult literature with a science focus for pure enjoyment and to discuss the books with other folks who also enjoy reading and science. But, if you would like to discuss how to use this book and/or specific literacy strategies with your students let's start a thread for that. I'll follow your lead.

I've decided that for this read we're going to let our discussion flow a bit more loosely than we did with Gravity. I've heard from a lot of people that they have already finished The Bone Garden! BUT....some have not so we need to be careful in our conversations not to spoil the ending!! So why don't you tell us where you are in the story and what you think of the book so far. We'd love to hear what caught your interest and curiosity.

As you read through The Bone Garden think about the science related areas and ideas that arise and how they make this story so darn good! Just like Gravity, The Bone Garden is a medical mystery but soooooo very different! I find myself comparing the medical science of each of the books. How do you think they compare? I found myself thinking of microbes. How they are both central to both stories but in very different ways. Why do you think Tess was so successful

at incorporating microbes into each story so successfully?

Hope you are enjoying your read and I also hope you take a minute to let us know your thoughts. It's so much more fun to hear from others!

Mary

Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Dawn Pray - 2009/08/03 21:13

I absolutely LOVED this book! Yes, the history and suspense kept me so interested! I really enjoyed living in Rose's world and couldn't wait to find out what happened next. I constantly found myself turning back into previous chapters, to see if there were any hints in the letters...but I could not figure out who was in the garden.

Maybe I was just wrapped up in the suspense, but did anyone else find themselves scurrying around trying to figure out who was in the garden or did you have an inkling all along? I have read books where after awhile you can make a pretty good guess at the ending, but this one kept me in the dark until the last minute.

With all of the history and detail, I find myself wanting to read it again, just to see if I missed anything. Great book!!

-Dawn

Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Barbara Wyman - 2009/08/04 14:00

I, too, loved this book, even more so than Gravity. I think it was because of the history and the fact that the setting was in a place that I'm familiar with. I must admit that when I was about 3/4 of the way through the book. I took a peek at the ending to see if my predictions were correct. It did not stop me from reading the book till the ending, though. I would have liked to have seen (maybe on Tess's web site?) a family tree of sorts to make sure that I got all the connections right. I found the medical science in The Bone Garden easier (for me) to comprehend than that in Gravity - somehow more "real life".

Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Dawn Pray - 2009/08/05 20:27

So, I know I'm jumping the gun here...but the name Rose Connolly was also in The Surgeon. About half way, I saw the name- spelled differently (and not the same person as in The Bone Garden), but I thought it was neat...

D

Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Mary Dunn - 2009/08/06 22:17

Hi Dawn!

I didn't even notice that! Tess has other characters that weave their way through several of her books such as Dr. Maura Isles and Detective Jane Rizzola.

It's so nice to see you hear and glad you are enjoying Tess's books. Hope you can come to the Oct. 9th conference to hear Tess speak!!

Mary

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Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Dawn Pray - 2009/08/07 08:53

Yes...Rose Connolly is Detective Moore's mother-in-law. She is mentioned just briefly about halfway through the book.

What book is Detective Jane Rizzola in?

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Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Carey Hotaling - 2009/08/07 22:38

I was surprised at how much I liked this book. I thought it would be more "heavy" on the science, but found it was mostly a good read with interesting facts from the era and the medical profession of the era. The character development throughout the generations was done very well, and I liked the way that Tess Garrison brought you back in time through a present day person researching details of her house. I thought it was odd how the idea was the main character was reading letters, but the letters weren't included for us to read (more than one or two). I would have liked that addition. I never new the story behind how the discovery was made about germs being spread through doctors...it seems incredible that so many women died due to lack of what we know of as simple knowledge of washing hands! I'm hoping to read gravity now (in backwards order). thanks for the suggestion.

If you want a book that's heavy on the science but a great read, I'm currently reading Hydrogen: Hot Stuff/Cool Science by Rex A. Ewing. It's a great read too.

Carey:cheer:

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Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Mary Dunn - 2009/08/08 22:55

Hi Carey!

Speaking of "washing hands"- here's an interesting link with information on Joseph Lister and his work on the need for cleanliness in the operating room: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1867lister.html>

Also here's a link on Louis Pasteur and The Germ Theory:
http://www.accessexcellence.org/RC/AB/BC/Louis_Pasteur.php

PS - Dawn - Detective Jane Rizzola is in a few of Tess's books; actually there is a series of Jane Rizzola books. You will meet her in The Surgeon. But also in that series of books in which she is in are The Apprentice, The Sinner, Body Double, Vanish, and The Mephisto Club.

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Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Mary Dunn - 2009/08/11 21:04

Here's an interesting article on some Boston medical history about a lad named Phineas Gage:
http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/07/22/newly_discovered_image_offers_fresh_insights_about_1848_medical_miracle/ Have you ever heard of him? Fascinating - he was around in the mid 1800's and his case baffled medical doctors. Read about this amazing case study.

One reason I enjoyed this book so much was that it took place in Boston. If you've spent any time around the Common in Boston you may find that you enjoy reading about this area that you are familiar with.

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Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Dawn Pray - 2009/08/12 21:18

I really enjoyed the suspense- the situations were puzzling and I couldn't wait to see how Tess connected all of the characters. Usually toward the end of books I think about how I want them to end and I found myself not caring about what I wanted because I was SOOOO curious about how Tess connected the dots. One of my favorite books of all time- right up there with A Thousand Splendid Suns and the Twilight series....

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Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Mary Dunn - 2009/08/12 23:10

Acorn Street - Beacon Hill - Boston, MA

I went to Boston and walked around The Common and Beacon Hill (great pizza at the Upper Crust on Charles St) looking for Acorn Street. It took some doing to find Acorn St. but I finally did. Attached is a document with some photos of Acorn Street. Maybe you'll enjoy the visuals. I really enjoyed walking down Acorn Street which is really like a tiny and very pretty ally way. Not sure if it was pretty 150 years ago. It was fun imagining what it was like when horses and walking were the modes of transportation and the gas lamps were gas because public lighting from electricity wasn't there yet. And it was even more fun to imagine Rose and Norris hiding in the shadows. Enjoy the pictures; hope they open for you. http://mainescienceteachers.org/images/fbfiles/files/Acorn_Street_Beacon_Hill_Boston.doc

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Re:The Bone Garden

Posted by Mary Dunn - 2009/08/31 11:38

As we end the month of August we also end our discussion about The Bone Garden. How did you enjoy The Bone Garden? Did it progress and end how you had thought it would? Is it a book you will recommend to others?

Thanks! Mary

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