

Readers Guide for *Can't Never Tell* by Cathy Pickens

1. When you read a book filled with descriptions of the location, do you often wish you could visit that area to see for yourself the people and places mentioned in the book? Would you like to find the area where “Dacus” is located (even though Dacus is a fictitious town) to see for yourself the surroundings? Why or why not?
2. If you asked Avery Andrews why she doesn't have a love interest or steady beau, she would likely tell you she's been too busy. Do you think she needs a beau? Any likely candidates?
3. The ideal may be that you should like your clients, patients, students, or others with whom you work. What can you do about those with whom you are required to work who are not likeable at all? Does your attitude toward the characters in a book who are not likeable affect your choice as to which one is guilty before you come to the end of the book? Could this attitude play a part in the decisions of the police in real life as to who is most likely to be guilty?
4. What character in this book is most memorable for you? Why?
5. In *Anna Karenina*, Tolstoy said, “All happy families resemble one another, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” The scenes where we see Avery's family get-togethers clearly illustrate why she was willing and happy to move back to her hometown. Are only unhappy families interesting? Why or why not?
6. People choose the books they read for an assortment of reasons—the humor, the human interest, the things the author can teach them. Why did you choose to read this book in the Avery Andrews series? What did you learn from the book, if anything?
7. Can you pick out the speech patterns that are true to Southerners' ways of speaking? Southern speech is unique but can be overdone or turn into “cornpone.” Did the dialect work in this book? What other regional or ethnic speech patterns have you enjoyed reading in books? Why or why not?
8. Did the story come to a satisfactory ending in your opinion? Were all your questions answered? Did you guess the outcome too soon?

Prepared by Catherine Anderson