

Page Turners

Discussion Questions for June 2026

The Secret History

By Donna Tartt

1. In the idyllic beginning it is easy to see why Richard is drawn to the group of Greek scholars. It is only after they begin to unravel that we see the sinister side of each of the characters. Do you think any one of the characters possesses true evil? Is there such a thing as true evil, or is there something redeeming in everyone's character?
2. List some of the signs that foreshadowed the dark turn of events. Would you have seen all the signs that Richard initially misses? Or do you believe Richard knew all along and just refused to see the truth?
3. What causes Julian to flee? Is it because of disappointment in his young proteges or in himself?
4. What is the meaning of Richard's final dream?

Adapted from: <https://www.penguin.com.au/book-clubs/3581-the-secret-history-book-club-questions>