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Fried green tomatoes at the whistle stop cafe summary by chapter

Folksy and fresh, endearing and affecting, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* is the now-classic novel of two women in the 1980s; of gray-headed Mrs. Threadgoode telling her life story to Evelyn, who is in the sad slump of middle age. The tale she tells is also of two women-of the irrepressibly daredevilish tomboy Iddie and her friend Ruth-who back in the thirties ran a little place in Whistle Stop, Alabama, a Southern kind of Cafe Wobegon offering good barbecue and good coffee and all kinds of love and laughter, even an occasional murder. And as the past unfolds, the present-for Evelyn and for us-will never be quite the same again... "Airplanes and television have removed the Threadgoodes from the Southern scene. Happily for us, Fannie Flagg has preserved a whole community of them in a richly comic, poignant narrative that records the exuberance of their lives, the sadness of their departure. Iddie Threadgoode is a true original: Huckleberry Finn would have tried to marry her!" -Harper Lee, Author of *To Kill a Mockingbird* "A real novel and a good one... [from] the busy brain of a born storyteller." —The New York Times "It's very good, in fact, just wonderful." —Los Angeles Times "Funny and macabre." —The Washington Post "Courageous and wise." —Houston Chronicle 1. This novel has a very complex structure alternating between the past and the present and the point of view of a whole host of different characters. Did this narrative format work for you? Were there particular narrators you found more compelling than others and why?2. ?Iddie and Ruth's friendship is truly a case of opposites attract. Why is the scene where Iddie reveals her bee charming skills to Ruth so pivotal to the story of their relationship and in understanding what drew them together despite their differences?3. Jasper Peavey's grandson is embarrassed by his grandfather's behavior toward white people. Discuss generational conflict and how life changed or did not change across the generations in both the Peavey and Threadgoode families.4. This novel has a great deal to say about race relations in the South. How did the black and white communities interact in this story both within and beyond the borders of Whistle Stop? Were Iddie and Ruth's egalitarian views on race typical?5. ?What is Artis Peavey's secret? Do you think the events he witnessed as a child had an impact upon his later life? How does race have an impact upon the lives of all the Peavey children-Jasper, Artis, Willie Boy, Naughty Bird? What options were available to them and what choices did they make and why? What do you think of the revenge that Artis takes on the man who murdered his brother?6. Do you think the color of Jasper and Artis' skin-Jasper being very light-skinned and Artis being very dark-skinned-made a difference in their approach to life? What does the light-skinned Clarissa's encounter with her dark-skinned Uncle Artis say about life as a black Southerner?7. How do you feel about a character like Grady Kilgore, Whistle Stop sheriff, member of the Ku Klux Klan, and friend to Iddie and Ruth at the same time?8. ?Eva Bates is a woman you might call sexually liberated before her time. What role does she play in Iddie's life? In Stump's? What are Ruth's feelings toward Eva?9. We never learn where Ninny came from or how she came to be adopted by the Threadgoodes, only that they took her in and treated her like a member of the family. This is only one example in a novel full of non-traditional families. What are some other examples of familial bonds that do not look like a traditional nuclear family? How does this author challenge and expand our understanding of the meaning and structure of family?10. ?What drives Iddie to masquerade as Railroad Bill? What role did the economic devastation of the Great Depression play in the lives of Iddie, Ruth, Smokey, and everyone in Whistle Stop?11. ?Why did Ruth leave Iddie and marry Frank? What made her finally leave him?12. ?Did the identity of Frank Bennett's killer surprise you? What drove her to do what she did? Why was Iddie prepared to take the blame?13. What do Dot Weems' weekly dispatches tell us about the nature of life in a small town? Were you sorry to see Whistle Stop fade away? Why has this been the fate of so many small towns in America?14. How does Iddie help Stump overcome having lost his arm?15. ?How did Evelyn's relationship with Ninny Threadgoode change her life? What did she learn from Mrs. Threadgoode? And how did Evelyn help her friend?16. What did Ninny Threadgoode's stories offer Evelyn? Why do you think Evelyn is so drawn to this woman and her stories?17. Ninny tells Evelyn that her memories are all she has left. Discuss the importance of memory and storytelling in this novel.18. Why and how was Evelyn able to finally overcome her revenge fantasies, send Towanda packing and make important changes in her life? What steps did she take that ensured these changes would be for good and not a temporary thing?19. How does this story explore the process of aging? How do we die with dignity when all those we loved and who loved us are gone? How does Ninny manage?20. Does the Whistle Stop Cafe sound like a restaurant you would like to frequent?21. Is domestic violence viewed differently today than it was in Ruth's time? Do you see any changes in Ruth's character after she leaves her abusive marriage?22. Which character would you be most interested in meeting and why?23. For those of you who have seen the movie, how do the movie and the book compare? What is missing from the movie and why do you think this is so? Do you think the choices made in terms of how to streamline this complex novel for film were the best ones?24. The importance of food in the fabric of everyday life is a central theme in this book. For example, Evelyn and Mrs. Threadgoode bond over the treats Evelyn brings. What does Evelyn's battle with her weight say about contemporary society and women's relationships with food and their weight? Are these struggles evident in the lives if Ninny, Iddie, or Ruth?25. In the final chapter, we learn what has happened to Iddie. Why do you think she and Julian left Whistle Stop to take to the road? Why don't their friends or family appear to know where they are? Does this seem like an appropriate ending for Iddie?26. ?Will anyone or has anyone tried any of Sipseys' recipes? About this Author Fannie Flagg began writing and producing television specials at age nineteen and went on to distinguish herself as an actress and a writer in television, films, and the theater. Her first novel, *Daisy Fay and The Miracle Man*, spent ten weeks on the New York Times paperback bestseller list, and her second novel, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe*, was on the same list for thirty-six weeks. It was produced by Universal Pictures as the feature film *Fried Green Tomatoes*. Flagg's script was nominated for both the Writers Guild of America and an Academy Award, and it won the highly regarded Screenplay Award. Flagg narrated both novels on audiocassette and received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Spoken Word. Her latest novel is titled *Welcome to the World, Baby Girl!* She lives in California and Alabama. Learn More About *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* Want to learn the ideas in *Fried Green Tomatoes At The Whistle Stop Cafe* better than ever? Read the world's #1 book summary of *Fried Green Tomatoes At The Whistle Stop Cafe* by Fannie Flagg here.[Read a brief 1-Page Summary or watch video summaries curated by our expert team.](#) Note: this book guide is not affiliated with or endorsed by the publisher or author, and we always encourage you to purchase and read the full book.We've scoured the Internet for the very best videos on *Fried Green Tomatoes At The Whistle Stop Cafe*, from high-quality videos summaries to interviews or commentary by Fannie Flagg.Overall Summary*Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* is a 1987 novel by American author and actress Fannie Flagg. The narrative contains two interconnected stories that unfold several decades apart. The frame narrative, which takes place in Birmingham, Alabama between December 1985 and December 1986, depicts the developing friendship between a middle-aged housewife named Evelyn Couch and an elderly widow named Ninny Threadgoode. As the story opens, Evelyn is suffering from what she will later recognize as depression and anxiety. Although her life superficially resembles the American ideal, Evelyn is deeply unhappy with how it has turned out. She says: "I just feel stuck... stuck right in the middle....Women's lib came too late for me...I was already married with two children when I found out that I didn't have to get married..and now it's too late to change..."Evelyn's life changes when she meets Ninny Threadgoode, who is a talkative and opinionated woman. Mrs. Threadgoode talks about her experiences of sex, marriage, and children with Evelyn while boosting her self-esteem. Evelyn gains more confidence but sometimes has angry outbursts; for instance, when a teenage girl pulls into the parking space that she had been waiting for, Evelyn crashes her car repeatedly into the girl's vehicle.After the death of her friend, Evelyn is upset and angry. She feels sad for a long time but eventually finds joy in life again by becoming a successful Mary Kay distributor and going to weight loss camp. Afterward, she returns to visit Mrs. Threadgoode's grave where she thanks her for helping her find new happiness in life.The novel presents two narratives. The first one is about the present, in which Evelyn and Mrs. Threadgoode are discussing her past, specifically her hometown of Whistle Stop, Alabama. This narrative also includes flashbacks to the 1930s when Ruth Jamison and Iddie Threadgoode owned a diner together in Whistle Stop, Alabama.Iddie Threadgoode is a tomboy and doesn't like to be around people. She's also very free spirited and rebellious. Her brother Buddy dies when she is young, but it isn't until many years later that she finally recovers from her grief. Then Iddie falls in love with Ruth Jamison, who returns those feelings but feels obligated to go back home because of an engagement ring on her finger. So Iddie helps Ruth escape Frank Bennett and they open up a cafe together in Whistle Stop where they live happily ever after. From 1929 on, Iddie and Ruth run the Whistle Stop Cafe. It serves people who other establishments won't- out-of-work drifters and the black population of neighboring Troutville. The two women face many challenges over the years: In 1930, Frank travels to Whistle Stop to forcefully retrieve Ruth, and then suddenly disappears; in 1955, his car is found there; Iddie stands trial for his murder but her community provides an alibi that she's innocent.In 1936, Ruth's son had an accident and lost his arm. In the 1950s, Iddie had to close down her café because of a railway strike. However, she was still doing well in the 1980s by running a roadside stand with her brother Julian.The novel is made up of two major storylines. The first involves Iddie Threadgoode and Ruth Jamison, who were close friends in high school and grew apart after Ruth married Buddy. The second storyline follows the lives of many people in Whistle Stop, including their black cook Sipseys Peavey. She was a nanny for the Threadgoodes' children when they were younger and eventually adopted her own child, George Pullman Peavey Jr., nicknamed Big George or Baby Boy (although he's not really a baby). He worked at the Whistle Stop Cafe as a barbecue chef with his wife Onzell; together they had four sons: Jasper (who marries into the black middle-class), Artis (who leads an unsuccessful life of womanizing, heavy spending, and occasional violence), Willis Junior (nicknamed Buddy), and Robert Earl (nicknamed Buck). Finally, we learn that it was actually Sipseys who killed Frank Bennett instead of Iddie because she thought he tried to rape Ruth one night when she came home late from work. *Fried Green Tomatoes At The Whistle Stop Cafe* Book Summary, by Fannie Flagg

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