

Book Club Discussion Guide for Granite Oath

📖 In Lizzie's frustration with Seamus, she blurts out that "You damn McCrees turn a pinkie swear into a granite oath that nothing less than a glacier can crush." Is her assessment correct? Does it apply to all the McCrees in this story (Seamus, his mother, and Megan)? Does it apply in all situations?

📖 The author tells the story entirely from Seamus's point of view. Was that effective? What limitations did that place on the author's telling of the tale? How does that affect how readers perceive the moral issues raised by the actions of Seamus and his family?

📖 After Seamus discovers Kat's trailer ruined, he offers Valeria and Nana shelter. But when Nana insists that Seamus not contact the police, he goes along with the request, even though he was technically deputized by the Sheriff's office. Did Seamus make a good decision? Why or why not?

📖 Seamus has no patience with the politicians and their inability to address issues surrounding the Dreamers and illegal immigration. Does government's inability to legislatively resolve these issues justify Seamus choosing to put Valeria's and Nana's safety above following the law?

📖 Seamus implies that society turns a blind eye toward exploitation of women. What events in the story support or contradict his perception?

📖 Was Seamus right to let Aaron Rogers, a probable killer, escape? What should he have done differently?

📖 Was Mike Crenshaw a victim of his wife and son's misdeeds, or did he slip under law enforcement's radar? Is his "punishment" of losing his wife and knowing his son will serve prison time sufficient to balance the scales of justice?

📖 In the story we see the interactions between members of four families: the McCrees, Serranos, Crenshaws, and Korpis. What do those fictional relations suggest about how the author views families?

📖 The story ends with prosecution still hanging over Seamus's and Colleen's heads. If you were sitting on their jury, would you vote to convict them of obstructing justice? Why or why not?