

1. How would you describe the village of Carsely? Would you like to live there?
2. Agatha moves to Carsely ostensibly to escape the hustle and bustle of London in exchange for “beauty, tranquility and security.” Once she’s there, however, she has some trouble relaxing, and doesn’t seem to find the solace she expected. Can you think of a time when you were disappointed by something you thought you wanted?
3. How do Agatha’s mood and feelings about her new home change over the course of the book? How are these feelings influenced by things that happen to her, and her interactions with the townspeople?
4. On page 74, Bill Wong says to Agatha, “The trouble with business women like yourself, Mrs. Raisin, is that your normally very active brain has nothing left to feed on but trivia.” What does he mean by this? Bill continues, that “After a few months, believe me, you will settle down and get involved in good works.” Do you agree?
5. Is Agatha lonely? How does she attempt to combat this loneliness, and is there any way in which she brings it upon herself?
6. Why does Agatha agree to take Mr. and Mrs. Boggle for an outing?
7. On page 165, Mrs. Bloxby makes a speech to Agatha about the sanctity of human life, and the possibility that the death of Mr. Cummings-Browne was in fact a murder. “I felt that God had sent you here to find out the culprit,” she says. Why does Mrs. Bloxby say all this to Agatha?
8. What kind of books does Agatha read throughout the novel? What kind of influence (if any) do you think they have on her?
9. How is Agatha similar and different to other cozy detectives?
10. At the end of the book, Agatha gets a new neighbor when James Lacey moves to Carsely. How is James’s attitude toward the town similar or different to Agatha’s? How do you think their relationship will develop? Agatha’s relationship to Bill Wong?