



Greetings from Phyllis
Let's swap stories over a cup of tea.

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DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR
THE UNWELCOME VISITOR AT GREY SAGE

By Phyllis Clark Nichols



- Lily and her art students, Drake Dodson, and Boots and Clara Boone have come to Grey Sage to retreat from their daily activities. Where do you go to find this kind of retreat? Is it a place that nurtures your soul and stimulates your creativity?
- Clara is a storyteller. Why do you suppose we love stories? What makes us want to listen to a storyteller like Clara? Who is the storyteller in your family?
- Did you learn something about Native American culture, symbols, and folklore? What did you learn that was interesting to you?
- Sarki is a new character in this ensemble. Did you like her or dislike her? Why?
- Clara ends her final story in Chapter Nineteen with these words: "Can you hear the silence? Do you hear the whir of the white dove's wings as she flies away? Keep listening. The dove of peace always returns." How do you interpret that thought?
- What does Silas teach us about mercy? What in his life might have made him more grace-giving?
- In Chapter Seven, there is discussion around the table about science and religion. Silas quotes Albert Einstein: "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind." Then Silas adds, "I don't know about you, but I don't really want to stumble around on this planet lame or blind." How do you reconcile science with religion?
- And then Bea adds her profundity: " ... forget the why and the how. When you get down to it, there is really only one question . . . Whodunnit?" There is mystery we must accept by faith. How do you deal with the how and why questions?
- Suffering and grief can make us bitter or better. Discuss how this applies to Silas and to Semi.