

Reading Group Questions for "St. Dale" by Sharyn McCrumb

(Questions compiled by Sharyn McCrumb)

1. If you were going on a pilgrimage to visit the grave or birthplace of a famous person, who would it be and why?
2. Heroes fill holes in people's lives. What hole did Dale Earnhardt fill in the lives of each of the #3 Pilgrims?
3. In chapter one, the man who fixes Cayle's car says, "Next February (2003), tell Mike Waltrip to pray for rain." What does that mean, and did the prophecy come true? When Terence predicts the year the Dale Earnhardt, Jr. will win the Daytona 500, is he correct?
4. What characteristics does the Dale Earnhardt Memorial Tour have in common with the medieval pilgrimages of the Church, such as the one to Canterbury or Santiago de Compostela?
5. How does the story told by Justine ("Richard Petty in Heaven") prepare you for the group's visit to the Petty Museum and DEI ?
6. What is a drafting partner in racing, and how is that term applied to life in general in the novel?
7. Several of the stories and characters of The Canterbury Tales are hidden in the text of St. Dale. Can you find one of the following: the guide/host of the Tabard Inn, the Squire's Tale, the Franklin's Tale, the Wife of Bath, or The Canon Priest and his Yeoman?
8. What does Harley mean by "life is too short for restrictor plates"?
9. How do you think things turned out for: Shane and Karen; Sarah and Richard Nash; Harley and Bekasu?
10. Did any miracles happen in the novel?