

## Vinegar Girl Discussion Questions

Read Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* and compare it with Anne Tyler's updated version.

1. Do you think Tyler's Kate was less of a "shrew" than Shakespeare's Katherine?
2. Discuss Kate and Pyotr's first meeting. Did you think there was a connection or chemistry there from the beginning?
3. Did you like how Tyler transformed the misogynistic Petruchio to the quirky Pyotr? Do you think he was a good match for her sarcastic Kate?
4. Kate is unsatisfied with her life at home and at work, but has done nothing to change her situation. Do you think her father's suggestion to marry Pyotr was actually what she needed to change her life?
5. Discuss the character of Bunny and the role she plays in Kate's life.
6. Discuss the family dynamic in *Vinegar Girl*. Do you think all families struggle with the balance of acting selfishly and selflessly?
7. Is the arranged marriage plausible?
8. Were you surprised when Kate was so upset when Pyotr does not show up to the church on time?
9. Discuss Kate's speech at the end of the novel. Do you agree with her?
10. What was your reaction to the story's Epilogue? Is that how you imagined Kates' life to turn out?
11. Which version do you prefer? Does Tyler's have the fireworks and passion of the original?