

Discussion of Three Truman Capote Short Stories  
*A Christmas Memory, One Christmas, The Thanksgiving Visitor*  
Galesburg Public Library Tuesday Book Club  
December 2006

1. In *A Christmas Memory*, Buddy describes his best friend as “still a child”; why does he say that? Why did the seven-year-old Buddy and the sixty-something Sook become friends?
2. In *A Christmas Memory*, why did Mr. HaHa refuse to take money for the whiskey and ask for a fruitcake instead? (p. 218)
3. Any reaction to how the rest of the family in *A Christmas Memory* treats Sook? Any comments on Buddy’s growing pains?
4. Many Americans complain that Christmas and other holidays have become too commercial. Do you agree, or did you think about this question as you read how Sook and Buddy prepared for Christmas?
5. What do the kites in *A Christmas Memory* symbolize?
6. In *The Thanksgiving Visitor*, what do you think of Miss Sook’s comments regarding the bully tormenting Buddy? (p. 247):

The thing to keep in mind, Buddy, is this boy can’t help acting ugly; he doesn’t know any different. All those Henderson children have had it hard.

7. What do you think of Sook’s behavior in *The Thanksgiving Visitor*? Of Buddy’s? Of Odd’s?
8. In *One Christmas*, Sook says, “Of course there is a Santa Claus. It’s just that no single somebody could do all he has to do. So the Lord has spread the task among us all. That’s why everybody is Santa Claus.” Any comments?
9. What emotions did Capote's holiday memories in these three stories trigger in you?
10. Did you like the stories? If so, what were your favorite parts? Which was your favorite of the three stories? Your least favorite? If you did not like the stories, why not?
11. This line in *The Thanksgiving Visitor* really struck me: “She talked to herself often, a habit of sane persons of a solitary nature”. (p. 251) What in any of the stories was memorable for you?
12. Does reading Capote’s stories make you want to read other works by him?
13. Are there any questions you would like to ask?