**Vinegar Girl
by Anne Tyler**

**About the Book**

Kate Battista feels stuck. How did she end up running house and home for her eccentric scientist father and uppity, pretty younger sister Bunny? Plus, she’s always in trouble at work – her pre-school charges adore her, but their parents don’t always appreciate her unusual opinions and forthright manner.

Dr. Battista has other problems. After years out in the academic wilderness, he is on the verge of a breakthrough. His research could help millions. There’s only one problem: his brilliant young lab assistant, Pyotr, is about to be deported. And without Pyotr, all would be lost.

When Dr. Battista cooks up an outrageous plan that will enable Pyotr to stay in the country, he’s relying – as usual – on Kate to help him. Kate is furious: this time he’s really asking too much. But will she be able to resist the two men’s touchingly ludicrous campaign to bring her around?

**About the Author**

Anne Tyler is the author of twenty bestselling novels. She was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1941 and grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina. She graduated at nineteen from Duke University and went on to do graduate work in Russian studies at Columbia University. *A Spool of Blue Thread*, Anne Tyler’s *New York Times* bestselling twentieth novel, was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize; her eleventh novel, *Breathing Lessons,* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1988. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

**If you enjoyed *A Fine Imitation:***

* *Hag-Seed* by Margaret Atwood
* *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett
* *Shylock Is My Name* by Howard Jacobson
* *They May Not Mean To, But They Do* by Cathleen Schine
* *London Belongs to Us* by Sarra Manning

**Discussion Questions**

1. Discuss Kate and Pyotr’s first meeting. Did you think there was a connection or chemistry there from the beginning?
2. Tyler is a master writer when it comes to depicting family relationships. Discuss the family dynamic in *Vinegar Girl*. Do you think all families struggle with the balance of acting selfishly and selflessly?
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 strong 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. Were you surprised when Kate was so upset when Pyotr does not show up to the church on time?
7. Discuss Kate’s speech at the end of the novel. Do you agree with her?