

1 There are many things I would like to discuss about *The Da Vinci Code*. First of all, I would like to discuss the way this book was written: it was narrated by multiple people, both protagonists and antagonists, for the reader to tell how one felt about the other and how they justified their unruly and sometimes extreme actions (especially the antagonists). This also made this book very interesting for the reader. There were also a few twists in the book that I was not expecting. For example, Teabing's traitorous role as "the Teacher" shocked me when he revealed himself late in the book. Similarly, I was surprised when Teabing and Langdon informed Sophie that the Holy Grail was a woman, not a traditional chalice, contrary to popular belief.

2 Because this book is a fast-paced mystery novel, the puzzles, clues, and solutions all flew by. This made the entire book a little confusing, especially because the puzzles were combined with a different culture - the French - and was about a subject that I have little knowledge about: the Holy Grail and its theories. Similarly, I know little about many important objects, including the painting *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci, which was referenced a few times in the book: "On it hung an eight-foot-long print of The Last Supper ... Uncertain, Sophie made her way closer to the painting, scanning the thirteen figures - Jesus Christ in the middle, six disciples on His left, and six on His right. 'They're all men,' she confirmed" (204). I only know what this painting looks like based on the descriptions in the book, but if I had prior knowledge of it, I probably can understand the book much better.

3 I would rate my level of enjoyment reading this book a ten out of ten. I liked how realistic this mystery feels, with many true facts backing it. The theory about the famous Holy Grail mystery that Dan Brown presents through Robert and Sophie's adventure is very interesting, and literally ends up where they started - even after hundreds of miles traveled chasing the answer - which is unique. Also, because the book was set in France and Great Britain, this book is very different from most books I read. Overall, I liked this book very much.

4 I think the most powerful and emphasized theme in this book is that women are powerful, but often suppressed. Mary Magdalene, the Holy Grail, was a woman - however, the Church wanted to suppress her because her marriage to Jesus Christ made him seem less godly. Also, Sophie helped Robert many times, especially to escape arrest and solve the mystery: she helped him escape from the Louvre Museum at the beginning, and knew many of the answers to the puzzles that her grandfather left behind.