

Discussion Questions for “Losing Patience” by Joyce Faulkner
ISBN: 0974565245

1. Key West Dreams -- All the main characters are named after birds. What does that tell you about each character? How do the habits of Manikins (also a type of bird) illustrate the relationship between the two brothers? Two males perform an elaborate aerial courtship dance for the female. The female will mate with only one of them -- the alpha male. Bird watchers often wonder why the other male works with the alpha to help him win his lady love. How does this little bit of information change your perspective on this story?
2. Chance – What does Chance feel about Hannah?
3. Andrew -- According to Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, there are five stages of grief -- shock, denial, anger/bargaining, depression, acceptance. According to Lt Col David Grossman, there are also five stages in coming to terms with having killed. How does author use these elements in this story?
4. Fatty Mattie -- Mattie makes peace with herself about her weight. Does that change after her conversation with the doctor?
5. Elizabeth Rose -- How sure are you of all the things that you are sure of?
6. In My Fashion -- How does this story relate to Ernest Dowson’s poem, **“Non sum qualis eram bonae sub regno Cynarae”**
<http://poetry.elcore.net/CatholicPoets/Dowson/Dowson16.html>
7. The Brafferton -- Why does author call this her “rope” story?
8. Just Hold Me -- What happened at Quang Ngai?
9. Lilith -- Who is Lilith in the story? Who is the legendary Lilith?
10. Infinity -- Why did the author call this particular piece “Infinity”?
11. One Chittendon Drive -- Who is the narrator?
12. Sweet Miss Marguerite -- What does Marguerite reveal to her son in her note?
13. The Empty House – This story is about grief. How does the main character express this emotion?
14. The Rubber Dome -- Aside from the humor in this story, this is a story about longing. How does the author communicate this emotion?
15. The Menagerie -- This is a story about a real Circus Fire in Cleveland 1942. It’s also the story about a little girl’s loss of innocence. What else is Pam losing?
16. The Test -- What biblical story does this piece reflect?
17. Unforgivable – Does Hedy forgive her father?
18. Voice (9/11) – Truth is colored by perspective. How do the various perspectives of the same event impact your understanding of it?
19. Winding Down -- What does the title refer to?
20. Losing Patience – How much will a father do for a son?