

Discussion Questions for *The Restless Flame*

1. What is 16 year old Augustine like?
2. Describe the character of Monica. How is she different from her husband, Patricius?
3. Who is Alypius? Why does Melania call him a “good fool”?
4. What was Carthage like? How did Augustine’s studies there influence him?
5. What is the nature of Melania and Augustine’s relationship?
6. How does the death of Patricius and Melania’s pregnancy affect Augustine?
7. What do the Manicheans believe? Why do you think Manicheism appealed to Augustine? Was he zealous about the Manichean faith and how did it change his life?
8. What makes Augustine restless in the Manichean faith? Why was he not satisfied with the answers of Bishop Faustus?
9. What was Augustine’s experience in Rome?
10. How was Augustine received in Milan?
11. Discuss the character of Bishop Ambrose. What is happening in his diocese? How is Ambrose an exemplary Bishop? How does he influence Augustine?
12. What was his reaction to learning about St. Anthony? What happened to Augustine in the garden?
13. How does Augustine struggle with lust and how does he overcome this?
14. How did Monica’s death affect Augustine?
15. Why did Augustine decide to go to Rome?
16. What was Augustine’s counsel to Count Boniface regarding war? What happened during the Siege of Hippo?
17. What are some of the heresies that Augustine fought?
18. Did you have any favorite quotes from Augustine’s writings that were in the novel?
19. This is a historical novel—did you do any research to see how much of the story was factual versus how much was artistic license by the author?

