

READER'S GUIDE TO *Daughters of the Stone*

1. In which ways are the characters informed by their dreams?
2. What is the legacy passed on by Fela? Is it a gift or a curse?
3. What are the different ways of knowing in the novel?
4. In what ways do they change as we get closer to the present?
5. Who is the Lady and what role does she play in their lives?
6. In what ways are the women outsiders and what price does each pay for being different?
7. What does the stone represent to each of the main characters?
8. How does African mysticism/spirituality manifest itself in the life of each woman? How does it change with the move to each different culture and time period?
9. In what way does guilt/remorse affect each of the main characters?
10. How does language change/evolve from book to book within the novel?
11. How is language acquired, lost, and reclaimed throughout the women's lives?
12. How do the different characters express their creativity?
13. Sleep plays a major role in this book. What is the function of sleep in each of the main characters' lives?
14. How would you characterize the Tomás/Fela relationship? Is Mati born of love or rape?
15. What is the significance of storytelling in this family?
16. How does "the gift" manifest itself in each woman's life? How does it change over the course of the novel?
17. The structure of the novel is cyclical. Why does it begin and end in the same place?
18. What does the stone symbolize to you?
19. Escape is a major theme in the novel. How does each main character deal with this issue? What is she escaping from and what is she hoping to find?
20. Mati rejects traditional schooling for her daughter, yet there are many mentors in the narrative. Who are the mentors, and how is knowledge passed from one generation to the next?
21. Who/what is the antagonist in this narrative? How did the protagonist fight back?
22. There are many ways of resisting. How do characters in this book resist?
23. Are you from a culture different than the one explored in the book? Do any of the relationships/situations in the book remind you of people you know? How does a different culture inform the same type of relationships/situations?
24. Is there a strong woman in your life that has had to struggle to assert herself? What was her struggle? How did she fight back? What did she win? What did she lose?
25. What is the most important legacy left to you by your ancestors? What has it meant in your life?
26. What legacy would you like to leave behind for the next generation? Why?