



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Half Blood Blues by Esi Edugyan

1. What was your impression of the book when you first began reading? What do you think of the use of the vernacular?
2. In your opinion, should Sid have stayed where he was when Hiero was getting arrested in the Coup, or do you think he should have defended his friend? Why or why not?
3. We know Hiero (and the rest of the characters) only through Sid. Do you think Sid is a reliable narrator? Why or why not?
4. Who would you argue is the protagonist in the novel? Explain
5. Describe the relationship between Sid and Chip, and Sid and Hiero.
6. Delilah is one of the few women in the novel, yet she's a major character. How do you see her? What struck you most about her?
7. There are many examples of female authors who have chosen to write from a male's perspective and vice versa. Why do think the author chose to write this novel from a male perspective? Do you think *Half-Blood Blues* would be a different novel if it were written using the female voice or using a third person narrative?
8. What did you think about the structure of the novel and how it went back and forth in time and place?
9. How did you feel when Sid finally confessed his big secret?
10. What do you think of the ending of the novel?
11. What is the difference between discrimination and persecution?

The above questions were adapted from <http://www.amnestybookclub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/HalfBloodBlues-DiscussionGuide-Mar2014.pdf> to enhance your discussion of the book.

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