



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Circe by Madeline Miller

1. Circe struggles to find a place for herself as a woman in a man's world. What parts of her experience resonate with modern day challenges that women face?
2. Throughout the novel Circe draws distinctions between gods and mortals. How does Glaucus change when he becomes a god?
3. Circe begins the novel feeling very close to her brother Aeëtes. Why do their paths diverge so wildly? Why do you think he make the choices he does?
4. Circe's sister Pasiphaë begins the novel as a major antagonist. How does our perspective of her change after Circe's visit to Crete?
5. Circe says to Telemachus, "Do not try to take my regret from me." What does she mean by that? What role does regret play in the novel?
6. There are numerous references to crafts in the novel, including weaving, carpentry and metal-working. What role does craft play in Circe's story?
7. Were you surprised when Telemachus refused Athena? Why or why not?
8. We see numerous powerful characters abusing their positions throughout the story. Are power and abuse necessarily connected? Are there any models for power without cruelty in the novel?
9. Circe encounters several famous figures from Greek myth. Were any of their portrayals surprising?
10. Circe's gift is transformation. How does she transform from the beginning of the novel to the end? Why does she ultimately choose the path she does?

The above questions were taken from <http://madelinemiller.com/circe/circe-readers-guide/> to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Madeline Miller grew up in New York City and Philadelphia. She earned a BA and MA in classics and teaches Latin, Greek, and Shakespeare. She also studied social thought at Yale School of Drama focusing on adaptation of classical texts.

<http://madelinemiller.com/the-author/>

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