

THE WOMAN IN THE WALLPAPER

By Lora Jones

BOOK GROUP QUESTIONS

Title and Themes

1. What is the significance of the title? How does the wallpaper function as a symbol throughout the novel?
2. What are the themes of the novel?
3. How does the story relate to the broader themes of the gothic genre? For example: the supernatural, the grotesque, the psychological, personal isolation.
4. How does the author use symbolism to enrich the narrative? What objects or motifs hold deeper meaning for the characters or the reader?

Character

1. Which character did you find most compelling and why? Who did you sympathise with the most - Sofi, Lara or Hortense? Or someone else?
2. How would you describe the personality and motivations of each woman? How do their perspectives shape your understanding of the story's events?
3. What are the key turning points for each woman in the novel? How do these events change their trajectories?
4. How do the women's relationships with each other evolve? What challenges and bonds are there between them?
5. Did you find any inconsistencies or contradictions in the three main characters' differing accounts of the same events? How did you interpret these discrepancies?
6. What are the main sources of conflict in the novel, both internal and external? How do the women grapple with these conflicts?

Narrative Style, Voice and Tone

1. Why do you think there are three first person voices in this novel and how does this narrative device relate to the wider themes of the book?
2. What are the benefits and challenges of this narrative choice?
3. How would you describe the writing style and tone used for each woman's perspective? What makes their voices distinct?
4. Are there any passages or quotes that particularly resonated with you? Why?

Historical Context

1. Did the novel inspire you to learn more about the historical period or the issues explored in the story?
2. Do you think the novel's themes resonate with contemporary society? If so, how?

Beyond the Text

1. What lingering questions or thoughts did the novel leave you with?
2. What do you think was the overall message of the novel?
3. Would you recommend this novel to others? Why or why not?