



Evil Eye by Etaf Rum
Discussion Friday, 16 May at 10:00 am.

1. How do Yara's relationships with her family members (especially Fadi and Baba) shape her actions and emotional state throughout the novel?
2. In what ways do the generational differences between Yara and her parents influence their interactions and understanding of each other?
3. How does immigration play a role in shaping the characters' lives and their perceptions of freedom and constraint?
4. Yara states "I wanted to be an individual, but was always seen through the prism of my family." In what ways does Yara struggle with establishing her own identity within her family and culture?
5. How do Yara's memories of her childhood in Palestine affect her present-day life in the United States? How does Yara's emotional journey and growth parallel her physical journey to Palestine?

6. In what ways does Yara struggle with traditional gender roles, and how does this affect her pursuit of autonomy and fulfillment? How are the different female characters in the novel portrayed in terms of their strength, resilience, and agency?

7. What are your thoughts on Fadi's character arc? Does he experience any significant change by the end of the novel? How does Fadi's attitude and behavior contribute to the strain in his marriage with Yara?

8. Discuss the significance of food in the novel, particularly in scenes involving Yara's interactions with her family and friends. How does food serve as a symbol of cultural identity and connection?

9. The author uses art as a means for Yara to express her emotions and assert her individuality. How does this creative outlet help Yara in her journey towards autonomy and self-discovery? What other moments or actions demonstrate Yara's desire for independence and control over her own life?