

*The Love and Lies of Rukhsana  
Ali* Discussion Questions

1. In your opinion, how much of a person's **identity - who he or she is** - comes from his or her culture, - customs, beliefs, society and way of life?
2. Canada is known for its diversity of immigrants. What are the most important aspects of Canadian culture that a new immigrant should know, in your opinion?
3. If you were preparing a meal to introduce your boyfriend or girlfriend to your family, what foods would definitely have to be part of the meal?
4. *The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali* shows us how different cultures may approach life differently. After reading the novel, what differences do you see between Rukhsana's Bengali culture and North American culture? Are the two cultures similar in any ways?
5. Are you and Rukhsana alike in any way? What do you have in common with her?
6. What are the **roots of prejudice**, either racial prejudice, gender prejudice, or prejudices about sexual orientation? What causes the prejudices we see in the novel?
7. What are the **results of prejudice** (racial, gender, sexual orientation) as we see them in this novel??
8. What are the qualities of a good parent? How does a good parent help a child to develop into a responsible and happy adult?
9. Based on this novel, how **should** we respond when we are not allowed to make important choices for ourselves?

10. Shakespeare wrote: “This above all: **to thine own self be true**, And it must follow,  
as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.” How does this apply to the characters in this novel?
11. What are the sources of strength that Rukhsana draws on as she fights to make her own life choices?
12. What will you remember most about *The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali*?