



Name _____

Squire by Sara Alfageeh & Nadia Shammas

Discussion Questions

Gather 3 or more people who have read *Squire* to discuss the book. Briefly summarize the book to remind everyone of the details (some of you may have read it a while ago!) Use the questions below to help keep the discussion going:

1. Who was your favourite character in the book? Why?
2. What are the main themes or messages in *Squire*? Discuss as a group, if you agree or disagree, and why.
3. In the 'Squire and History' section at the back of the book, the author discusses how history is shaped by the interests of those telling it. She encourages readers to question the stories we are told, even this one. Do you agree with this perspective? Why or why not? Discuss a time when you have questioned a historical narrative yourself.
4. One of the main themes of this book is resilience. How do each of the main characters exhibit resilience? Share a time when you were resilient or witnessed someone else being resilient.
5. Aiza's mother asks Aiza to cover up her Ornu tattoo so she won't be discriminated against at squire training. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? If you feel comfortable, discuss a time you have hidden a part of your culture or traditions from others and why.
6. Many of the characters have preconceived notions about each another based on their status or nationality (the Ornu people hoard food, rich people are weak, etc.). Discuss how these prejudices change over time as the recruits get to know one another.
7. The book ends with the Aiza, Husni, and Sahar starting on a new journey as defectors who now know the truth. What do you think will happen next in their story?

