



Colorado Book Club Resource

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR WHAT IS NOT YOURS IS NOT YOURS BY HELEN OYEYEMI

1. First, what is your favorite story within the collection and why? Which is the most puzzling? Which is your least favorite?
2. Consider the title of each story and its meaning within the context of the story. Is the title thematic...or ironic?
3. The overriding metaphors within the collection are locks and keys. What role do they play in each story, and what is their symbolic significance?
4. In what way is "Dornicka and the St. Martin's Day Goose" an inverted "Little Red Riding Hood"? Do any of the other stories play with fairy tale themes? Consider, for instance, the way "Is Your Blood as Red as This?" draws on "Pinocchio."
5. Trace the characters who appear in multiple stories. How do they, or their roles, change from one story to the other?



This discussion sheet is property of the Colorado State Library's Book Club Resource. Please return this sheet along with all of the books in the book bag to the Colorado State Library – Courier Code C912. Contact bookclub@coloradovirtuallibrary.org with questions or concerns.