

WAHALA READING GROUP GUIDE

1. How did the alternating points of view between Ronke, Simi, and Boo contribute to your experience reading Wahala? Did seeing the women through each other's eyes as well as getting a look into their minds help you better understand them? Which of the three friends did you relate to most?
2. When Boo first meets Isobel, she's shocked by how different she looks and seems from the way Ronke described her. What does this tell you both about Isobel as a character and about the differences in how Boo and Ronke see the world?
3. Food plays a major role in the book, from characters bonding over brunch to cooking meals for each other. How does food and cooking serve as a way to bring characters together and provide them a link with their culture? Do you have a special food or ritual involving food that's important to your family, friends, or culture?
4. After getting a weave, Boo remarks that "I don't look like me," while her daughter's immediate response is to marvel that she "look[s] like a Black woman!" What does Boo's reaction tell us about her complicated feelings towards race, and the way she sees herself as a biracial woman?
5. Throughout the book, we learn that each of the four women has been affected by her relationship (or lack thereof) with one of more of her parents. How do you see these relationships repeating in the women's respective romantic relationships and feelings toward children and family?
6. Having been raised in England, Boo often feels excluded and irritated when other characters bring up cultural touchpoints or speak in languages she's unfamiliar with. Likewise, she gets angry with Didier for encouraging Sofia to speak French, as it gives the two of them a connection Boo isn't privy to. Why do you think she's so sensitive to these occurrences? While other characters define themselves by their culture, to what extent does Boo define herself by the cultures she doesn't feel she belongs to?
7. "The axe forgets, but the tree remembers." Why do you think the author chose this proverb as an epigraph, and how does it relate to the story? Which character(s) are the "axe" in this metaphor, and which are the "tree?" How do you interpret the meaning of the proverb?
8. In what ways does the friendship between Ronke, Simi, and Boo feel similar to your own friendships? Did their relationships with each other feel authentic to you? Are there other friendships in books, movies, or pop culture that they reminded you of?
9. Towards the end of the book, shocking connections between certain characters are revealed. Were you surprised by these reveals? What clues (if any) did you catch throughout hinting at the twists?
10. Were you satisfied with the book's ending and where all of the characters ended up? Was there anyone you wanted a different ending for? Did anyone's fate surprise you?

WAHALA by Nikki May | Mariner Books | On Sale 12/27/2022

Paperback: 9780063084254 | \$17.99/\$21.99 Can

eBook: 9780063084261 | \$12.99

Digital Audio: 9780063084278 | \$26.99

