



A NOVEL

Sister Mother Warrior

Book Club
Questions

VanessaRiley.com

VANESSA RILEY



1. What is the significance of the title? Did it resonate with you and how the story is told, why or why not?
2. What were the main themes of *Sister Mother Warrior*? How were those themes brought to life in the characters?
3. What did you think of the prophetic poem starting each section?
4. What did you think of the writing style and the way *Sister Mother Warrior* was structured?
5. How important was the time-period or the setting to *Sister Mother Warrior*?
What surprised you? Did the setting add to or distract from the story?
6. While the author, Vanessa Riley, tries to spare or limit the painful details, she felt it necessary to include certain painful scenes. What did you of the way violence was portrayed? What would you have left out? What needed more details?
7. Were there any quotes, sentences, or passages that stood out to you? Why?
8. What did you like most about the portrayal of Gran Toya? What did you like the least?
9. What did you like most about the portrayal of Marie-Claire? What did you like the least?



10. What did you like most about the portrayal of Jean-Jacques Dessalines? What did you like the least?
11. What were the power dynamics between the characters? How did this affect their interactions? How did it affect them over time, particularly as Dessalines grows in power?
12. How does the way the minor characters like Elise, Maman, and Mamie see themselves differ from the way others see them?
13. Were there times you disagreed with a character's actions, particularly Marie-Claire's choice to marry and then to have an affair? Gran Toya choice to become enslaved? Gran Toya's choice to remain on the Duclos plantation for as long as she did? What would you have done differently?
14. Overall, how did Sister Mother Warrior make you feel? Describe the emotions the story evoked?
15. What do you think Riley's goal was in writing this book? What ideas was she trying to illustrate?
16. Did your opinion of Sister Mother Warrior change as you read it? How?
17. Was the book satisfying to read? Why or why not?
18. If you could talk to the author, what burning question would you want to ask?



19. Which character did you most relate to and why?
20. Who was your favorite character? Why?
21. What moment or scene prompted the strongest emotional reaction from you?
Why?
22. If the book were made into a movie, who would play each of the lead characters?
23. One story question is the concept that we are all Black. Everyone who remained in Haiti by right of the constitution became Black. How do you feel about this?
Would you want everyone to be Black?
24. Are there any books that you would compare this book to?
25. Have you read any other books by Vanessa Riley? How would you compare them to this selection?