



# The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store

JAMES MCBRIDE

## Book Club Questions

1. HOW DOES THE BOOK EXPLORE THE THEME OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING? WHICH CHARACTERS FELT TRULY “AT HOME,” AND WHY?
2. WHAT ROLE DOES THE GROCERY STORE PLAY IN THE LIVES OF THE CHICKEN HILL RESIDENTS?
3. HOW DOES THE BOOK HANDLE THE INTERSECTION OF RACISM, ANTI-SEMITISM, AND POVERTY?
4. DID YOU FIND THE ENDING SATISFYING? WHY OR WHY NOT?
5. HOW DOES JAMES MCBRIDE BALANCE HUMOR AND HEAVY THEMES?
6. WHO WAS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER AND WHY?
7. HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT MOSHE AND CHONA’S RELATIONSHIP? WHAT MADE THEIR BOND SO STRONG?
8. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF NATE’S JOURNEY THROUGHOUT THE STORY? HOW DID HIS CHARACTER GROW?
9. HOW DID CHONA’S ACTIONS CHALLENGE TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES OF THE TIME?
10. WHICH CHARACTER SURPRISED YOU THE MOST BY THE END OF THE BOOK?
11. HOW DOES MCBRIDE’S STORYTELLING STYLE CONTRIBUTE TO THE BOOK’S EMOTIONAL IMPACT?
12. THE BOOK SHIFTS PERSPECTIVES OFTEN—DID THIS HELP OR HINDER YOUR CONNECTION TO THE STORY?
13. HOW DOES THE HISTORICAL SETTING ENHANCE OR SHAPE THE NARRATIVE?
14. WERE THERE ANY MOMENTS WHERE THE PROSE OR IMAGERY STOOD OUT TO YOU?
15. HOW DOES THE BOOK REFLECT ON THE ROLE OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER?
16. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE STORY SAYS ABOUT LOYALTY AND SACRIFICE?
17. HOW DO THE EVENTS OF THE BOOK MIRROR SOCIAL ISSUES WE STILL FACE TODAY?
18. DID ANY PART OF THE STORY REMIND YOU OF YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES OR FAMILY HISTORY?
19. IF YOU COULD ASK JAMES MCBRIDE ONE QUESTION ABOUT THE BOOK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
20. WHAT’S YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM THE NOVEL, AND WOULD YOU RECOMMEND IT TO OTHERS?

