"A Grapes of Wrath for our times."
—DON WINSLOW

Book Club Questions

BORED TO DEATH
BOOK CLUB

1. What is the significance of the novel's title, American Dirt?
2. How does the author portray the relationship between Lydia and Luca?
3. What role does the concept of family play in the story?
4. What do you think of Lydia's transformation from a bookseller in Acapulco to a fierce protector of her son?
5. How does the novel explore the theme of survival? What lengths do the characters go to survive, and what are they willing to sacrifice?
6. What role does hope play in the characters' journey? How does it drive their actions?
7. How does the author use the metaphor of the train, La Bestia, to illustrate the migrant experience?
8. In what ways do the cartel and the violence they inflict shape the decisions of Lydia and other characters?
9. How does the novel challenge or confirm your perceptions of immigration and the migrant crisis?
10. What do you think of the character of Reyna? How does her story contribute to the overall narrative?
11. Do you think the portrayal of Mexico and its people in American Dirt is accurate?
12. What is the significance of books and literature in the novel? How do they provide comfort or escape for Lydia and Luca?
13. How does the novel address issues of privilege and class, especially in Lydia's initial life in Acapulco compared to her life on the road?
14. What impact do you think the novel's portrayal of trauma and violence has on the reader's understanding of the immigrant experience?
15. How do the characters Lydia and Luca represent resilience in the face of adversity?
16. What does "home" mean to Lydia and Luca by the end of the story?
17. What role do secondary characters, like the coyote and El Chacal, play in shaping the narrative?
18. What does the novel suggest about the American Dream?
19. Did you find the ending hopeful or heartbreaking? Why?
20. Given the controversy surrounding the book's portrayal of Mexican immigrants, do you think it was effective in shedding light on the migrant crisis? Why or why not?