

Readers Guide to *Hidden Within the Stones* by Robin Martinez Rice

Hidden Within the Stones includes a study of love and commitment across gaps of time and age. What do the older characters offer the younger? Do the younger characters also contribute to the growth of their elders?

What motivates Ella to keep going despite the obstacles encountered? Do you see her perseverance as part of her heritage? What about her parents? Her children?

What does this story tell us about cultural impact on the evolution/stagnation/maintenance of practices and beliefs?

In the end, Ella rejects Andy. Why has she shied away from building a relationship with him?

This novel is populated by a wide array of female "roles". Yet it takes place within two traditionally male dominated spheres: The "Brotherhood" and conflicts over the ownership of land. Are the female characters supporting actors? Or, do their stories change the landscape of the novel as well?

How do you think Ella will live when she returns to California? What about Shannon?

Hidden Within the Stones is the story of relationships, across time and in the present. Are any of these relationships familiar to you? What resources do you have in your life when confronted with changes?

Would you have lived as a converso in Spain but still kept true to your own religion? What motivates people to keep strong in the face of conflict?

What would make you change your set of beliefs (about anything, not just religion) for another? Do you see this as collapse or growth?