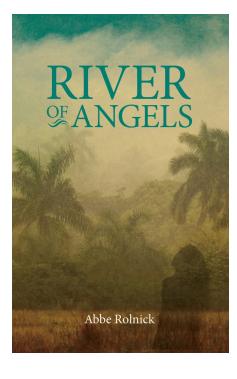
## **Reading Group Question and Topics for Discussion**





- 1. Which character can you identify with and why?
- 2. Pide, a minor character, plays an important role. What does he bring to the story?
- 3. "Everything matters, Carlos, even a grain of sand." What does Rosie mean by this? What significance does sand have beyond the obvious?
- 4. Monica carries prejudices within herself. Whom does she judge? What are her strengths and weaknesses?
- 5. What significance does the cave have in the story? How is this situation similar to other historical events?
- 6. Explore the idea of color—dark and light, black and white, red and purple.
- 7. How are vines used as a metaphor in the story?
- 8. Rosie is considered a healer, as is Abuelita. Who else heals or changes in the story, and how?
- 9. "Fate is patient." How does fate relate to secrets and actions of Abuelita, Monica, Carmen, and Carlos?
- 10. Explore the theme of birth—with various characters and the island.
- 11. If this were a religious story, how would you use the ideas of healer, faith, voodoo, trust, and redemption?
- 12. The political standing of a territory has implications that affect its people. What place does history have in the development of an individual, culture, and society?