

Discussion Questions

for Book Clubs, Classes, and Basically Everyone

1. At the beginning of the story, Mila is dropped into a whole new language and a whole new culture. In what ways does the Mexican culture differ from your culture? In what ways is it the same?
2. Mila regularly criticizes her appearance and allows Rosa to dress her up on more than one occasion. How does her image affect her confidence? What does she gain when she finds her own style in stead of copying others?
3. Throughout the novel, Mila is searching for her identity, at the same time, she's trying to please those around her. How do her friends and family affect her identity and her search for it? What does she gain by trying to please her friends and family? What does she lose? Does she have to stop seeking for approval before she can find herself or is there a balance between the two?
4. Which of the two boys, Christian or David, was better for Mila? Why? What traits does a good date or boyfriend have? If they don't have such traits, when is the best time to end the relationship?
5. Instead of telling Rosa's parents about the party and possibly betraying Rosa's trust, Mila lies about the party and goes with Rosa to protect her. Was this the best course of action? If not, what should she have done instead? Why?

Discussion Questions

for Churches, Youth Groups, and Christian Organizations

1. Mila believes that because she is not perfect, she is not good enough for God. Why does she have this opinion? Is this opinion right or wrong? Why?
2. Mila struggles to read the Bible because she's been a Christian for so long that she's read it all before. Do you share her struggle? What can be gained by reading the scripture over and over again?
3. At the first outreach event, Mila was firmly against street preaching due to the experiences she'd had. Later, she learns that her host family became Christians because of street preaching. What experiences have you had with street preaching? Have they swayed you toward or away from Christianity? In what ways can street preaching be helpful or harmful.
4. A lot of unexpected things happen to Mila throughout the novel—getting lost in Taxco, Christian attacking her, Manual turning out to be a famous painter. How does she find God in each unexpected place? How can you remember to turn to God when life gets out of control?
5. Mila comes to Mexico with a set of plans. Her pursuit of those plans goes completely awry. Only when she lets go of control, does she accomplish those plans, but in ways she never imagined. Has this ever happened in your life? How do our plans hold up to God's plans? What can happen when we hold on to our plans too tightly? What can happen when let them go and let God take control?