

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Thread

by Victoria Hislop

1. Why do you think the author Victoria Hislop decided to bookend *The Thread* with her prologue and epilogue? Does the story of Mitsos contribute to the novel? Does it matter that the prologue to some extent reveals the novel's outcome for Katerina and Dimitri?
2. Why did Eugenia take in Katerina when she already had twins to raise? Who were some of Katerina's female role models that shaped her life? Discuss Katerina's many relationships with family, friends and neighbors that were changed by the war.
3. How did Katerina's resilience help her survive? What were some of the many ways that the Morenos family and Katerina helped each other? Was there a time that Katerina gave up her search for her real mother Zenia and her sisters?
4. How do Katerina and Dimitri's lives intertwine throughout the novel and how do their initial encounters shape their relationship? What helped develop Katerina and Olga's relationship?
5. The reader gets a broad view of the impact of war and how different people respond to the situation. Does war change people or just provide them with an opportunity to reveal their true selves? Who profited from the political changes? What picture does *The Thread* paint of human nature in times of hardship?
6. Why would Dimitri and his friends become Communists? How did this affect the father's business? How did his father deal with his son Dimitri's political views?
7. Did you feel that Katerina had a choice working as a seamstress for Grigoris Geourgounis? How about when she married him? Why would Olga encourage this union when she herself lived in an unhappy marriage? Compare the different marriages depicted.
8. Katerina waited for many changes throughout her life: to find her mother, becoming a seamstress, her first husband to pass away, visiting Olga, and waiting to be with Dimitri? This took many years of patience for these changes. At what times in her life was Katerina able to take charge of her future?
9. In what ways is threading prominent throughout the novel? Why was this important to Katerina from the time she was a child? Discuss the many times that Katerina's job as a seamstress saved her life. Who were the many people that were affected by her sewing?
10. Do you feel there was any unfinished answers in this novel? Did the author adequately cover what happened to the hidden Jewish items? Her relationship with her mother? The Morenos family? The grandson Mitsos? Do you feel the story line is plausible?
11. Spanning many decades and disasters, the characters in *The Thread* resided in Thessaloniki during the great fire, the invasion of the Asia Minor refugees and mass emigration, the second world war, the heartbreaking Jewish cleansing and the civil war in Greece. Were you aware of Thessaloniki's history?
12. After Mitsos hears his grandparents story of their life in Thessaloniki, how do you think it will affect him and his future?