

book club questions

LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE

- The novel starts out by telling the reader a home has burned. Did you like this early reveal of what was to come or would you have preferred to learn of this as the action unfolded?
- By the end of Little Fires Everywhere, the reader knows the literal significance of the title. Discuss the figurative significance.
- How is the theme of motherhood explored through the characters?
- How is the theme of race explored through the characters?
- How is the theme of class explored through the characters?
- How are these themes explored differently through the adults versus the teenagers in Little Fires Everywhere?
- Discuss the similarities and differences between Mia and Elena.
- Discuss the positive and negative character traits of Mia and Elena.
- How do Mia and Elena see themselves, and are their assessments correct?
- Discuss the similarities and differences between the four Richardson children: Lexie, Trip, Moody, and Izzy.
- Is Izzy a "bad" child?
- Why does Pearl gravitate toward the Richardsons?
- Why does Moody gravitate towards Pearl?
- Why does Izzy gravitate toward Mia?
- What causes tension between Elena and Izzy?
- Discuss the role of art in Little Fires Everywhere.
- Did you empathize most with the storyline of one particular mother in this book?

- In complex situations, is motherhood based more on biology, love, money, or something else?
- How does the time period of the 1990s affect the storyline?
- Discuss Shaker Heights (a planned community) and its importance as the setting for this story.
- How may another setting impact the storyline?
- Are the mothers in Little Fires Everywhere bound by their pasts?
- What point(s) do you think this novel is trying to make about secrets?
- Was Mia right in keeping secrets from Pearl?
- Could this story have happened somewhere other than a planned community?
- How much right does a community have to become involved in the lives of its members?
- Did you favor either side in the custody battle case between Mirabelle McCullough and May Ling Chow?
- Discuss Mia's and Elena's perspectives on the case and what shaped them.
- Discuss Elena's relationship with each of her children, and why they differed.
- Discuss the difference between the intention and the impact of the characters' actions.
- Did your perspective on any of the characters change by end of this novel?
- Do you leave the novel feeling sympathy for any of the characters?
- What is the lesson or lessons to be learned from Little Fires Everywhere?
- Do you think the characters will leave these events as changed people for the better?
- What do you think may happen next in the lives of these characters?
- Author Celeste Ng created a Spotify playlist for the book. What 1990s songs do you think most reflect Little Fires Everywhere? What songs do you think the characters may add?
- Did you watch the HULU adaptation and, if so, what were your thoughts about it?
- Compare and contrast Little Fires Everywhere to the other books by Celeste Ng.

