



A MOSAIC OF WINGS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your first impression of Nora? Which word would you use to describe her at the beginning of the book and which word at the end?
2. Nora is fascinated with insects. Why do you think that is? How did it begin? Do you have a life-long passion? How did it begin?
3. Women in Nora's generation had to fight against false stereotypes and prove themselves worthy or equal to men in similar positions. How does this influence Nora's character and choices? Have you ever faced a similar struggle?
4. Nora finds insects beautiful. Why? Besides a butterfly, have you found insects beautiful? Have you ever thought something or someone beautiful that others did not? Why?
5. Owen says, "We all have handicaps we have to overcome." Which character's weakness do you most relate to?
6. "You don't understand. The insects don't live for your sake. They have their own purpose." How is this true for people? If you have children, is it difficult to let them find their own purpose?
7. How are Nora and Pallavi similar and different? How does this make them partners?
8. "'I already love the shola,' she said, her voice dropping to a whisper. 'There's a peace here I have never felt before.'" Do you think the different setting is what brings Nora peace or something else? Is there a specific place where you feel tranquil?
9. How does Nora's pride get her in trouble? How about you?
10. Nora tells Sita, "You don't have to believe what your father tells you to." How is this statement hypocritical for Nora? What does Nora not understand about Sita's culture and religion? What beliefs, if any, did you have that sparked opposition with your parents?



11. What was your first reaction to Sita and her predicament? How does Nora understand and misunderstand Sita's future and choices?
12. How does Owen help Nora loosen up and have fun? How does this help their relationship grow? Do you think your significant other balances you in the way Owen balanced Nora? How?
13. How is the room full of colorful saris symbolic of Nora's life?
14. After reading *A Mosaic of Wings*, do you want to visit India? Why or why not? What place have you dreamed of visiting?
15. In chapter 16, Nora ponders the following question: "Did all the sacrifice and striving and bitterness really bring honor, or was it all vanity?" How would you answer this question for Nora and yourself?
16. Many missionaries in 19th century India focused more on cultural differences than sharing Christ. Were you surprised at the head missionary's response to Nora's request to help Sita? What did you think of his explanation?
17. Do you think it was fair for Owen to ask Nora to choose between him and her father's journal? Does she ask the same of him?
18. Nora begins her presentation with the following observation: "The more you're exposed to a thing, the more you accept it. And because of that, we sometimes miss the little details that could reveal something bigger than our expectations allow." How was this true for Nora? How is this true for you?
19. What do you think of Owen's sacrifice for Nora? Are you satisfied with Owen and Nora's compromise for a future together?