

Book Club Discussion Questions

1. Were you able to relate to the way Miri felt after her first visit to Israel? What about her outlook on family, tradition, and living up to expectations? Do you find it difficult to understand or accept?
2. Discuss the meaning of the novel's title. There's an obvious allusion to Miri's desire to rename herself, but what are the underlying tones of her "request"?
3. Miri's father often accuses her of being a bit unrealistic, but his behavior and relationship with her prove to be anything but harsh or judgmental. Do you think Miri is justified in her childish whimsy?
4. What is your opinion of Luke? Did it change as you read his side of the story?
5. Why do you think Darling and Miri strike up a friendship so quickly?
6. Were you surprised that Miri would marry a man like Bryan? Why or why not?
7. What do you think of the relationship between Miri and her sister? Does it surprise you that Miri could love her sister, as different as they are?
8. Would you be able to move to another country and start your life anew? How do Miri, Darling, and Luke differ in their moves and decisions to just pick up and move their lives?
9. Discuss Miri's ties to Israel. Would most girls in her situation show that much nerve in the face of the fearful unknown?
10. Considering the world in which we live today, would the threat of terror and war push you to participate in it or would you simply remain a bystander?
11. Discuss the roles of the many friendships in Miri's life. Which do you think offers the most to Miri and why? Does this opinion change over time?
12. What do you think of Miri's final decision about her place and purpose in life? Do you think her choices will fulfill her needs and wants?
13. Do you believe Miri is moved more by her relationships with family and heritage or by her capricious approach to love and life?