

FOX CREEK

by M. E. Torrey

Book Club Guide

1. Why do you think Kate wants her father to purchase Monette so badly? Why is William reluctant to purchase Monette?
2. How does Monette's early childhood with Papa Léon shape her character development?
3. On one occasion, Sarah gathers the slaves to teach them catechism. This particular catechism really existed and was historically used by slaveowners to teach their slaves about Christianity. Do you think the catechism is an accurate representation of Christianity? How did the catechism benefit slaveowners? In the time since the catechism was written, how has Christianity changed, or *has* it changed?
4. Multiple characters in the book exhibit animosity toward Monette, including Miss Mehitable and Fatima. Why do you think that is?
5. In your opinion, is Fatima a tragic figure?
6. Why do you think Monette forgets about Cyrus? Is this intentional on her part? If so, why?
7. At one point, William declares himself to be a good person, sincerely believing he's never harmed anyone in his life. How do you think he reconciles this with the punishments that he regularly delivers to his slaves?
8. Kate is often admonished for her impetuous, brash behavior. She is expected to embody the feminine ideal, which is submissive, quiet, and deferent to men. How does this social expectation affect Kate? If Kate were alive today, what kind of person do you think she would be?
9. Compare today's masculinity with that of the antebellum era. In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different?
10. Compare the different ways in how society treats both Kate and Monette as the girls grow older.
11. Why do you think Sawney elicits such rage from William?
12. The sexual liaison between Breck and Monette is foreseeable, but also sudden. How does Monette feel about what happens? Is Breck abusing the power imbalance between them? If so, do you believe he is aware of this?