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DISCUSSION GUIDE

JUMPING-OFF QUESTIONS

Use these questions to get the conversation going—or to reflect on the story as a whole after finishing the book.

- Which character did you resonate with most? Why?
- Was there a character or storyline that annoyed you? What do you think that reaction says about you or your own story?
- Which storyline felt unfinished—or one you wanted more of? Why do you think it was left open?
- The book unfolds over seven days. How did that structure affect the pacing or your understanding of the story?
- What did you think of the interludes from Kingston's perspective? How did they shape your reading experience?
- Which scene stayed with you after you closed the book? What made it so memorable?
- If you could ask one character a question, who would it be—and what would you ask?
- Were there any moments you felt seen or challenged as a reader? What made those moments personal?
- If this story had one core message, what would you say it is?
- If your own life were part of this novel, where would your story thread be woven in?

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS

Once you've explored your first impressions and connected with the characters, take time to reflect on the deeper themes woven throughout the story. These questions invite you to consider not just what happened—but what it stirred in you.

- Kingston's violin becomes a kind of presence throughout the novel. What do you think it represents—and what might your "instrument" be in the world?
- Many characters protect an image at the cost of their integrity. How do you see that tension play out in your own life?
- Forgiveness shows up quietly but powerfully in several storylines. Which moment of forgiveness—or refusal—stood out to you most?
- Unspoken family wounds shape several characters. How do inherited expectations or silence affect the choices they make?
- Black and white (and other stark contrasts) show up throughout the book—visually, morally, and emotionally. Where did you notice this contrast most clearly? How does it reflect the characters' struggle to live in a world that's often more gray than clear-cut?
- Some characters begin to change, but not all finish that arc. Who takes the biggest risk toward transformation? What do you think made it possible?
- The ending doesn't tie everything up, but it points forward. What kind of hope does it leave you with?

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

PERSONAL REFLECTION

These prompts are meant to help you engage with the story on a personal level—inviting you to explore your own identity, hidden struggles, and moments of grace as they surface through the characters' journeys.

- Which character did you relate to most—and why? What does that connection reveal about your current season of life?
- Have you ever built part of your life around a version of the truth you wanted others to see? What did that cost you?
- Where do you feel stuck between what is expected of you and who you truly are? How might God be inviting you to move forward?
- Is there someone in your life you struggle to forgive—or someone you need forgiveness from? What keeps that healing from happening?
- When have you used creativity—writing, music, story, design—as a way to express something you couldn't say out loud? How did it help?
- Think of a moment of grace in your life. How did it change the way you saw yourself or others?
- What "window" into your own heart has this story opened? What do you see there that surprises you?
- Think about a time when someone interrupted your routine in a meaningful way—like Kingston playing for those who stopped to listen. What did that moment awaken in you?

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

REFLECTION IN ACTION

These creative activities are designed to help you explore the story beyond words—through art, movement, and imagination. Whether you're processing alone or in a group, these prompts offer space to interact with the novel in a tangible, soul-shaping way.

The Violinist's View
Prompt: Imagine Kingston is watching your group from his street corner.
Activity: Each person writes a short paragraph or monologue from Kingston's point of view, observing your group. What would he see? Who would he pause for? Then,take turns reading them aloud.
Optional Reflection: What would it look like to "see" people in your real life the way Kingston does?

Behind the Window
Prompt: Mirrors and windows show up often in the story—sometimes revealing, sometimes hiding.
Activity: Give each person a blank paper with a window frame drawn or printed on it. Inside the frame, they draw or collage an image of "what's beneath the surface" in their own life.
Optional Reflection: Share (as you feel comfortable) what's behind your window. What would it look like to invite someone in?

Black & White Gallery Walk
Prompt: The novel highlights black-and-white thinking vs. the complexity of life.
Activity: As a group, brainstorm phrases people often use that feel overly black-and-white (e.g., "Success means never failing"). Write each on a large sheet of paper. Then, walk around and annotate them with gray—nuance, tension, personal stories.
Optional Reflection: Which "gray areas" are you learning to live in with grace?

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

Soundtrack of the Soul
Prompt: Music, particularly Kingston's violin, carries emotional and spiritual weight in the story.
Activity: Break into small groups and assign each group a character. Choose 1–3 songs that capture that character's emotional or spiritual journey. Share your song choices and why.
Optional Reflection: What's one song that captures your current season?

Open or Closed
Prompt: Doors in the novel represent decisions, transitions, and things hidden or revealed.
Activity: Place two signs in the room—one labeled "Open" and the other "Closed." Read a series of statements aloud (e.g., "I'm open to being fully known," "I feel closed off to forgiveness," "I'm open to change," etc.). Participants physically move toward the sign that best represents their current posture.
Optional Reflection: Invite discussion afterward: What keeps us open—or closed? What would it take to shift? How does this mirror moments in the story?

Rewrite the Scene (individual)
Prompt: Several characters in the novel long for a different ending—or a moment they wish had gone another way.
Activity: Choose a scene from your own life that left a mark. Rewrite it, imagining what might have happened if truth had been spoken, grace had shown up, or courage had taken over.
Reflection: What does this reimagined scene reveal about what you still need to grieve, heal, or pursue?

The Hidden Thread (individual)
Prompt: We often carry parts of our story that feel hidden, disconnected, or unfinished—threads waiting to be named.
Activity: Using string, yarn, or even lines drawn on paper, create a visual "thread" that represents a part of your story you rarely share. Along the thread, write short words or symbols that mark key moments—turns, tangles, frays, knots, breaks, or new beginnings.
Reflection: What does this thread reveal about your journey? Where has grace held it together? What would it mean to let someone else see it?