

Daughters of the Samuria: Discussion Questions

1. When the women were sent to American, they were told to return to Japan in 10 years. Each of them did that. Does the Samurai code of discipline explain their return? How did their US experience of being a woman in the US influence their re-entry
2. While in the US, the 3 women were allowed to reach heights of freedom and intellectual freedom that they couldn't reach in their return to Japan. Discuss this statement.
3. (3 answers) Choose one of the women and discuss some of the personality traits that helped her achieve her goals. What 1 or two problems that she had to overcome?
4. (from the author) People often ask me which of the three women I felt closest to. Who intrigues you the most? And why?
5. Talk about Alice Barton and her role in the story of the "daughters".
6. (from the author) I'm interested in the questions of early feminism. As you know, these women disagreed profoundly with the idea of "women's rights as we understand them today, preferring to focus on the idea of "good wife, good mother" as the epitome of womanly achievement. How are these same and/or different from attitudes of women today?
7. (from the author) I'm not sure where you or your group stands on the current political situation, but immigration, assimilation, and multiculturalism are certainly on everyone's mind these days. You might want to consider how this story fits those themes or doesn't.
8. (from the author) In my travels with this book, I've heard so many personal stories from people who straddle more than one culture, and understand the good and bad of being in this position. Are there members of your group with similar resonances? If so, what are your experiences?
9. Bonus Question in case of a lag in conversation (as a corollary of Question 8) What were some of the lessons learned about living in a mixed culture? Is the immigrant experience today similar? Discuss.

Resources: email from the author, [US-JapanCouncil.org/online_discussion_with Janice_Nimura](http://US-JapanCouncil.org/online_discussion_with_Janice_Nimura), Wauconda CUDS #118: Teaching Reading in the Middle School, bookclub-recommendations.com, mini Book Bites, Reading GroupGuide.com, wmlnj.org/bookclubkits, bookbundlz.com