

*In the Language of Miracles*

**Rajia Hassib**

**A Viking Readers Guide**

**Discussion Questions**

1. The novel opens with a memory of when Khaled was sick and his grandmother tended to him at his bedside. What significance does this memory have for Khaled and the story to follow?
2. The memorial service and the question of whether to attend it hangs over the Al-Menshawy family for days. What would you do if you were in their position?
3. Throughout the book Hassib has included proverbs from Egypt and the U.S. What do these bits of wisdom reveal about the two cultures? How are they similar and how are they different?
4. How does Hassib evoke the family's isolation and loneliness? What details best capture that experience?
5. Each family member blames the others for failing to support one another or make decisions that reflect their best interests. Who is right, in your opinion?

6. What role does Ehsan play in this story? How does her presence in the household change the way Khaled and his mother deal with their personal tragedy?
  
7. As a teenager, Khaled seems most vulnerable to both bullying and other people's suspicions. What gives him strength and hope?
  
8. In many scenes there are debates over religious rites versus superstitions, and whether either can truly heal people. What do you think the author is trying to say about the value of these practices in our lives?
  
9. Why does Samir feel so strongly about staying in Summerset? What changes his mind?
  
10. The story ends with Khaled several years later. What has he learned and how has he changed over the course of the book?