1. At the beginning of Chapter 11, Doc describes a trip he intends to make and one on which Amir could not come with him due to his being sick with Malaria. Amir gives him his hijab to ward off evil spirits (review this scene on page 164). Do you have anything similar to Amir’s hijab that you carry to either ward off evil spirits or to bring you luck? Why do humans find safety or comfort in these types of objects? People have done so through the centuries, either for luck (a rabbit’s foot) or comfort (worry beads) or for religious purposes (rosary). How do such items function for us as human beings?

2. Re-read the email from Doc to Jeff on page 182. Do you sense a different tone in this email? What has happened at this point that Doc seems to be giving in to a stance he has sworn to avoid? Can a person truly remain nonpolitical?

3. At the beginning of Chapter 14, Doc tells of his frustration and anger with both the SLA troops and the Janjaweed. The memory of his involvement brings up another memory of dating a girl who was raped. His language reveals his feeling of total helplessness in both situations. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt totally helpless to act? Did you feel regret? anger? murderous feelings? How did you get back on the right track? How does Doc? What does he do with these feelings of helplessness?

4. The first fully-funded project by Wine to Water is a well inside Miriam’s orphanage (223). This project is much different than the ones established under fire in Darfur. Read the last page of chapter 15 (224). How is the tone of this chapter significantly different than Doc’s email in Chapter 14?