

1. Were you shocked at the amount of money Lilith and Wilda spent decorating their daughter's dorm room? How about renting a safe to protect their "valuables"? Do you think people of wealth actually spend that kind of money on dorm rooms? If so, is it to gift their daughters, impress others, or both?
2. Wilda quickly becomes steamrolled by the force that is Lilith, even lying to her husband about costs at one point because she doesn't want Lilith to see her lacking in any way. What role do "appearances" play in *Rush*, and what lessons might Wilda take from Ellie and Cali about standing up for herself?
3. Even though Cali is a topnotch student and the best kind of friend anyone could ask for, her lack of "pedigree" keeps her in fear of not fitting into Greek life. Do women without "family money" often feel inferior in social settings? Or is this a vestige of another era?
4. Do you think Cali did the right thing by keeping her family's dirty laundry a secret? Should her past have kept her out of a sorority? If you had a shameful family secret would you feel nervous about rushing?
5. *Rush* explores the complex relationships between mothers and daughters. Wilda's mother, Eleanor, seems snobby and outlandish, even ruthless in how she treats Wilda. Do you know people like Eleanor? Do you think she is the basis of Wilda's insecurity? How about Miss Pearl and Aunt Fee? Although they are technically aunt and niece Aunt Fee lovingly treats Miss Pearl like her own daughter and Miss Pearl seems to have plenty of confidence. Does confidence come from our parents?
6. Readers do not get to see Annie Laurie's point of view, but by the end of the book, she has altered in ways that pit her against her mother. Do you think those were always Annie Laurie's views, or was she more in line with Ellie and Cali, but due to an overbearing mother, unable to truly share who she was and how she saw the world?
7. After Lilith refuses to consider Miss Pearl for the house mother position, claiming she cannot change an archaic rule—despite the fact that Miss Pearl is more than qualified—Miss Pearl calls Lilith out on the real reason: "This is about the color of my skin, isn't it, Lilith?" Do you think Miss Pearl should have had to stand up for herself here? What other characters had an opportunity to call Lilith out, and how could they have better handled it?
8. At the Whitmore's Grove Party, Wilda refers to Gage's racist comments as "microaggressions" and explains that she and Haynes ignore them out of politeness or fear. How would you handle microaggressions in social settings and polite conversation?
9. Did the ending of *Rush* surprise you? If so, why? Did you envision a different ending? If so, what?
10. What role do you think forgiveness plays in people understanding one another? Do you think Miss Pearl really forgave Lilith, or did she just see a woman who wanted to change and was willing to give her that chance? Discuss.
11. What do you think was the catalyst for Lilith's change? Separation from her beloved sorority or separation from her beloved daughter? Do people ever really change?

12. Do you think there will be a happily-ever-after with Miss Pearl and the daughter she gave up for adoption? Do you prefer books where everything is tied up?

13. Sorority culture celebrates sisterhood and tradition, often finding comfort in the tried and true. However, in *Rush*, the Alpha Delta Betas help orchestrate big changes within their sorority because their staff benefits are out of date and have the potential to hinder those who they consider part of their family. What aspects of sorority culture are best preserved and what parts could be reconsidered as the Greek system moves towards the future?

14. *Rush* opens with a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.: *Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?* What are some examples of this from the novel? Did this book make you consider that question in your own life?

15. After reading the Author's Note did it change the way you viewed the novel? How so?