



1. Lace and her family have Mexican heritage, while the Corbeaus are French Romani. How does Lace's pride in her own culture encourage her prejudice toward Cluck and his family? How does it later help her relate to them? How can different backgrounds bring people together or put distance between them?
2. Cluck loses much of the use of his dominant hand as a child. How does this shape his personality, and his role in the Corbeau family? How do Lace's scars from the adhesive plant do the same to her?
3. Both the Corbeaus and the Palomas are families largely run by women, particularly Nicole Corbeau and Abuela. What do Nicole and Abuela have in common, and how are they different?
4. How does Lace's view of Cluck's feathers change during the course of the story? Why does Cluck change his mind about Lace's scales? How much does this alter, or not alter, their views of each other's families?
5. Alain accepts the will of the rest of the Corbeau family, while cultivating and protecting the relationship he has with Cluck. Do you think he did the best he could under the circumstances, or should he have handled things differently?
6. Why is Dax as abusive as he is toward Cluck, and as ruthless as he is toward the Palomas? Does he have reasons for what he does, or is he a character who thrives largely on cruelty for its own sake?
7. Why did the Paloma-Corbeau feud escalate as much as it did? Was there something the families could have done to stop it from getting as bad as it did? Do you think one family was more at fault than the other, either for the feud starting, or for it continuing? Do you think the younger generation has a chance to end it?

## *Discussion Questions*





8. Lace and Cluck live in fear of their families finding out about their relationship. Do you know anyone whose families have made their relationship difficult? How do their heritage, their upbringing, and the feud between their families affect the way Lace and Cluck interact with each other?
  
9. By living with the Corbeaus, Lace is keeping a huge secret from her family. Have you ever kept a big secret from someone close to you? What was the result? In which situations are secrets justified and when are they wrong?

## *Discussion Questions*

