

THE WITCH AND THE VAMPIRE

FRANCESCA
FLORES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What aspects of Kaye's life and upbringing led her to hate vampires so much, even before her mother's death?
2. Instead of being hardened, cruel, and cold-hearted after being imprisoned for two years, Ava seems very innocent and sometimes naive once she reenters the outside world. Why do you think this is?
3. Ava sets out with the intention to be a good, nonviolent vampire, but her anger at being imprisoned, and at how humans and witches try to control her, sometimes gives her violent, vengeful thoughts. Do you think her original intentions were genuine? If not, why do you think she wanted to be a good vampire?
4. Ava tries to place herself in a box of good or evil throughout the book, but later realizes that she's not fully either. How do her attempts to be one or the other backfire or hurt her throughout the story?
5. How does Kaye's biracial identity influence the way she moves through the world and how other characters treat her?
6. Kaye's and Ava's family upbringings have some similarities, but many differences. How do you think their relationships with their parents and their community affect the way they each act in this novel?
7. Do you believe Eugenia, Ava's mother, experiences any remorse or regret over her actions? If so, where in the text do you see this?
8. How are Ava's relationships with Eugenia and Casiopea similar, and how does each help Ava realize she doesn't need either of them to protect her?
9. Ava and Kaye become angry with each other throughout the book over perceived betrayals and their own fears and doubts. What are some ways they try to make amends with each other?
10. What are some ways that plants feature prominently in this story?
11. What are similarities you see between this novel and any other Rapunzel stories you're familiar with?
12. There are parallels drawn between life and death, and Root magic and vampirism. What are the similarities between these very different things?

