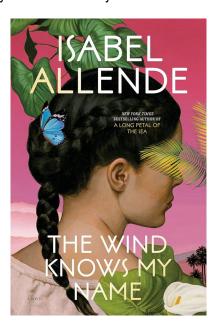


## The Wind Knows My Name Isabel Allende

## **Discussion Questions**

- 1. What do you consider the major themes of The Wind Knows My Name?
- 2. The story. The characters. The settings. The writing style. What are your favorite parts of Isabel Allende's novel and why?
- 3. Readers experience the Night of Broken Glass as it happens to the Adler family. Was there anything that surprised you about this act of terror that you hadn't known? Please discuss.
- 4. Music saves Samuel. Why do you think music transcends tragedy and comfort souls?
- 5. Why do you think Leticia believed in the power of St Jude, the patron saint of lost causes, and in
- St Christopher, the patron saint of travelers, despite abandoning the evangelical church?
- 6. There are two immigrant stories in the novel. How are they similar, and how are they unique?
- 7. How much did you know about the El Mozote massacre before reading this book? Why do you think this tragedy isn't widely known in America?\*
- 8. After Samuel moved to California, his wife Nadine opened up their "enchanted mansion" to bohemians, frustrated artists, and simple wanderers, causing a rift in the marriage. Which side did you fall on and why?
- 9. What was your initial impression of hotshot lawyer Frank Angileri?
- 10. On page 89, Selena says "This isn't about left, right, or any other direction. It's about finding practical solutions to real problems." What do you think about her statement?





- 11. Did you have strong feelings about the U.S. border policies before reading this novel? Did anything about those feelings change after reading it?
- 12. Reflect on Samuel and Nadine's 55-year marriage. Why do you think it lasted, despite the divorces and infidelities?
- 13. A common thread running through the various characters is trauma. Samuel. Leticia. Anita. How do you think each handled their tragic experiences? How did they persevere?
- 14. How did you feel at the end of The Wind Knows My Name? What did you take away from reading this novel?

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## **About the Author**

Born in Peru and raised in Chile, **Isabel Allende** is the author of a number of bestselling and critically acclaimed books, including *Violeta, A Long Petal of the Sea, The House of the Spirits, Of Love and Shadows, Eva Luna,* and *Paula.* Her books have been translated into more than forty-two languages and have sold more than seventy-four million copies worldwide. She lives in California.

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