



Grade 9 Discussion Questions

RL 9.5. Analyze how a text uses structure to emphasize key points or advance an explanation or analysis.

How does the novel use verse to emphasize the internal struggle of the narrator? Does it help the story, or does it hinder it – explain your position.

RL 9.2 Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; trace the text’s explanation or depiction of a complex process, phenomenon, or concept; provide an accurate summary of the text.

What is the narrator trying to tell you as the reader?
What is she saying about integration or culture shock?

RL 9.4 Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 9–10 texts and topics.

The title *The Good Braider*, what does it mean in the context of the story? How does Viola define herself?

The Good Braider by Terry Farish (2014) GRADES for USE: 8-10

SUMMARY OF BOOK:

Written in free verse, *The Good Braider* tells the story of Viola’s journey from the war-torn country of Sudan, to her first relocation in Cairo, Egypt. When she gets the chance, she makes her way to a Sudanese community in Portland, Maine, and to a whole new set of struggles. She finds herself in a world both traditional, and new age, in which her Sudanese values and beliefs are seemingly at odds with the more liberal way of life in the United States. She, and her mother, try to braid together their displaced life and build themselves a new one in this world of two cultures as they struggle to move on from the past.

Grade 9 Activities

W 9.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.

Produce a piece for a magazine or a newspaper about the influx of refugees into the United States and the programs that help them.

W 9.7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

How would you best help refugees integrate into a new culture? Conduct research on existing programs and develop a proposal for your own.