

# QUESTIONS

## FOR DISCUSSION

- Consider the novel’s structure. Why does Solares have Abelardo tell his story from his perspective as an old man, and not solely as a young one living through the 1847 events?
- What is the author’s intent by inserting Dr. Urruchúa’s notes? What does that add to the narrative? What aspect of Mexican history does he represent?
- What point, if any, does Solares make about American imperialism? Do the events of this historical novel remind you of any current events?
- Do you agree with Magdalena’s assessment that he “destroyed [Isabel’s] family”?
- Magdalena refers to Doña Isabel as “another of your victims.” What do you think she is implying about Abelardo?
- What do you think of Abelardo’s “episodes of melancholy”?
- Abelardo is obviously well off, and he mentions his ancestry as Spanish. Discuss what role class plays in Yankee Invasion.
- Why does Abelardo’s narrative employ frequent crowd and group scenes?
- Discuss how Abelardo describes the American soldiers. How does that differ from Dr. Urruchúa’s descriptions?
- Abelardo mentions his family, with the exception of Magdalena, very little. What sort of father do you think he was? Why is there so little mention of his current family?
- Before reading this book, did you realize how much land Mexico lost to the US? How well is the Mexican-American War taught in schools?
- Why is knowledge of the Mexican-American War important to understanding current relations between the two countries?
- How reliable is Abelardo as a narrator?

