

GLORI

BY NICOLE LYNN HANNANS

READER'S GUIDE: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you want Rakeim to change? Did you want Nicole and Rakeim to stay together? Why or why not?
2. What part of the book inspired you most? Did this moment remind you of something in your own life? Or the life of someone you know?
3. Nicole Lynn Hannans titled each section of *Glori* *The Sky Is Upside Down*, *The Red Storm*, *The Glowing Hilltop*, and *The Impossibles*. Why do you think she chose these? What do they reflect about each section?
4. Did it surprise you when Nicole moved out of the apartment in Newport News? Why or why not? How would the book have been different if she stayed?
5. After she discovered her pregnancy, Nicole had a dream about the lake, the paths and the glowing hilltop. What do you think this dream meant?
6. Where do you think Nicole got her strength from to achieve the things she achieved? Where do you get your strength from?
7. Mama D has a major influence on Nicole's life. Why? What does Mama D's death symbolize at the end of book?
8. What lessons will Nerissa learn from Nicole's experience?
9. *Glori* touches on the importance of the "home" when raising children. Nicole was deeply affected by her parents' arguing and the departure of her sister at a young age. What role does the "home" play in the decisions children make? Is Nicole's home unique or do many children face similar issues? How does your home compare to Nicole's?

10. Nicole describes “empty branches” early on in the book. What is the significance of “empty branches”? What do they mean?
11. Nicole’s mother’s reaction to her pregnancy is that she doesn’t feel she will make it to college. What do you think about this reaction?
12. Donté and Nicole face a challenge in the future of becoming a family and dealing with RaKeim. How do you think they will fare?
13. Motherhood is a huge theme in *Glori*. Nicole’s mother influences Nicole in different ways. Nicole herself becomes a mother. And then Mama D “adopts” Nicole as her daughter. What are the main messages about motherhood in this book?
14. What do you think of Nicole’s relationship with her father? How does it influence her? What is your relationship with your own father and how has it influenced you?
15. Nicole’s story of teenage pregnancy differs from the negative stereotypes of teen mother that you normally see. How does it compare to these images? Does this story make you think differently about teen mothers?
16. In the chapter entitled *Hate Rising*, the tension between Nicole and Rakeim mounts. Why is their relationship so tenuous? Have you been in a similar relationship?
17. Is Rakeim the typical teenage father? What do you think is most challenging for him in terms of being a responsible father to Nerissa?
18. Nicole encounters a great group of friends when she enters college. These friendships provide a circle of support, encouragement and fun. How big a part do you think this played in her success? How does this group of friends compare to her friends in high school?

19. Were you happy that Nicole found love again in Donté? Why do you think this relationship was good for her? Why do you think she was attracted to Donté?
20. When Nicole went to stay with her parents during her pregnancy, she had to face the things she had left behind when she left home in high school. Do you think this was necessary for her parents' healing? For her own forgiveness? Are there things or people in your life that you have not faced?
21. Why did Nicole's mom care that she had a miscarriage when she was disappointed about the pregnancy in the first place?
22. Nicole and Rakeim's relationship becomes physically dangerous at one point. Do you think Nicole should have left right then? Why or why not?
23. Kenya and Nicole didn't talk for months after Nicole refused to give her baby up for adoption. By the end of *Glori*, they are closer than before. What caused this change?
24. What is the significance of 1st Corinthians 13? At one point, Nicole says it makes her sad. Why?
25. Why did Nicole Lynn Hannans choose to name the book *Glori*? What does this title mean literally and figuratively?

MORE INFO:

Want to ask Nicole? You can! Please contact her at Nicole@nicoleink.com!

Would you like to have Nicole speak at your next book club meeting? Please contact her at Nicole@nicoleink.com.