



Discussion Questions: *Homegoing*

Folger Book Club—February 2024

1. What are your first impressions of the novel? If asked, what would you say this novel is about?
2. Throughout the book, we are introduced to a number of different characters across time and geography. What did you think of this structure? Are there characters you wish you had more time with?
3. What similarities and contrasts do you see between the experiences of Effia's family line versus Esi's?
4. What role do names play throughout the book?
5. What do you think Gyasi chose to divide the book into two parts as she did? What do you feel is significant about the two halves?
6. What role does ancestry play in this book? How do the various characters relate to their parents, children, and sense of family?
7. What role do patriotism, heritage, and tradition play in contributing to the injustices, prejudices, and violence depicted in the book?
8. Who are the storytellers in the book and what kinds of stories do they tell? Who is their audience? What might these examples suggest about the purpose and significance of a storytelling tradition?
9. On page 23, Gyasi writes: "The need to call this thing "good" and this thing "bad," this thing "white" and this thing "black," was an impulse that Effia did not understand. In her village, everything was everything. Everything bore the weight of everything else." What do you think of this observation? Do you recognize this impulse? What is the impact of labeling things in such a way?
10. On page 38, Maame says, "Weakness is treating someone as though they belong to you. Strength is knowing that everyone belongs to themselves." How does her definition of weakness and strength correspond to the dialogue about colonialism and imperialism that runs throughout the book?