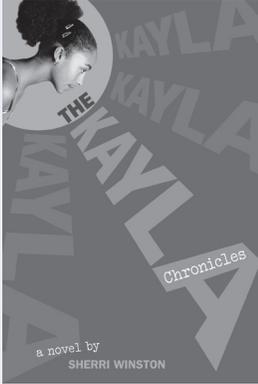


ReadingGroupGuide

The Kayla Chronicles by Sherri Winston

ABOUT THE BOOK



Kayla Dean, junior feminist and future journalist, is about to break the story of a lifetime. She is auditioning for the Lady Lions dance team to prove they discriminate against the not-so-well-endowed. But when she makes the team, her best friend and fellow feminist, Rosalie, is not happy.

Narrated with sharp language and just the right amount of attitude, *The Kayla Chronicles* is the story of a girl's struggle for self-identity despite pressure from family, friends and her own conscience. Kayla's story is snappy, fun and inspiring, sure to appeal to anyone who's ever questioned who they really are.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Defining herself as an outcast, Kayla isn't happy about her image, but her friend Rosalie is not bothered by being different. How does this difference between their self-images prove to be the beginning of the end of their friendship?
2. Why does Kayla agree to Rosalie's plan for Kayla to try out for the Lady Lions Dance Team? How does the plan backfire?
3. Why did Kayla originally establish SPEAK in her middle school? How does Rosalie change the purpose and motivation for the club in high school?
4. After Kayla's grandmother JoJo dies, she feels separated from her family members who have been living in Africa. Why doesn't Kayla seem to care that she is not a part of her family? How does Kayla's father embarrass her and diminish her as a person of value?
5. Grandmother Belle is critical of Kayla's clothing and hair, not to mention her beliefs about feminism. How does Belle's attitude eventually change toward Kayla? What does she give Kayla to help make peace between them?
6. Why is Kayla concerned that she could morph into a mini Rosalie? What does Kayla do to prevent this from happening?
7. Kayla's father makes especially hurtful comments to her about her physical appearance and her attitude toward family. How does Kayla react to her father's criticism?
8. Why is it so important to Rosalie to expose and disempower the Lady Lions? What does she say to Kayla to coerce her compliance?
9. Rosalie and Kayla begin to grow apart even before Kayla makes the dance team. What are their differences? How do they resolve them?
10. Because Kayla was raised by her Grandmother JoJo, a feminist literary professor, Kayla possesses many feminist political views. How do these views confuse Kayla as she tries to come to terms with her desire to dance with the Lady Lions, date Roger Brown, and dress in a more stylish manner?
11. What special skill does Kayla possess that assures her a spot on the dance team? What almost causes her to lose her spot?
12. On page 93, Roman tells Kayla, "Girl, you can't let haters rule your life." Does Kayla take his advice to heart? How does she finally handle the situation with Rosalie?
13. What is the desired outcome of the "Kick the Crown? Event? Why is Rosalie so upset at the event? How does Kayla handle Rosalie's betrayal?
14. When does the ice begin to melt in Kayla's family? How does Kayla's understanding of her mother's loss help mend their relationship? What brings Kayla and her sister together?
15. How do Kayla's experiences help her learn about the young woman she is and the strong woman she wants to become? How does the influence of her Grandmother JoJo and her family affect the woman Kayla will one day become?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sherri Winston believes her "internal age" hovers somewhere between 10 and 15. A fact that works well for her as a writer for young readers. The author of *The Kayla Chronicles*, Sherri lives in Georgia with her two young daughters and is a former lifestyle columnist for the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*.

