

Skokie Public Library's Book Discussion Guide

When the Rainbow Goddess Wept

by **Cecilia Manguerra Brainard**

- What is the effect of the story being told from the perspective of a child? How would it be different if an adult served as the narrator?
- Why do the traditional legends and stories mean so much to Yvonne?
- What is the role of women in Filipino society at this time? How do the main female characters fulfill and defy societal expectations?
- What part does religion, superstitions and faith play in the lives of the Filipinos in the story?
- How would you describe the various characters attitudes towards America and Americans? Do these opinions change as the war continues?
- In what ways were Yvonne's and her family's wartime experience similar to what others in different countries experienced during WWII? In what ways was the Filipinos' experience during the war unique?
- How are Yvonne and her family changed by the war? How is the Philippines?
- Is the book able to leave the reader with a sense of hope, despite all the hardships that the characters had to endure?
- Why did the author choose the myth of the Rainbow Goddess for the title of her book?
- Why is it important for a culture to preserve its legends and traditional stories?



Skokie Public Library

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