

Thought Questions for House of the Spirits

1. Politics/class (socialism)

Any similarities to China's revolution?

How did Esteban's upbringing affect his perspective in politics/life (strong work ethic)?

Hints of the future outcome in socialism?

Relationship with women and the peasant's beliefs?

2. Spirituality

What other symbols do people see in the novel?

What is the significance of green hair (Rosa, Alba)?

Women are spiritual centers, men are concerned with physical. Why did she present the world this way?

What is the significance of Clara's periods of silence?

What is the significance of Esteban's shrinking?

3. Sexuality/relationships

Why does Clara marry Esteban? What did she get from the match?

What is the purpose of Transito Soto? What is the significance of the scenes and time periods of when she appears (red lantern, Christopher Columbus)?

Why is Esteban jealous of Ferula's relationship with Clara?

Why does Allende link masculine desire for sex with barbarism (Barrabas, Esteban)?

Why can't a relationship ever work out? It's either passionate and swift or loveless.