

Thought Questions for Kitchen and Moonlight Shadows

1. Satsuki and Hiirujie: (Mikage and Yuiji) how does each cope with the loss of their loved ones? Does any character come to terms with life in some way that is stable? Is there a “savior” in each of these couples?
2. What is the significance of the river and the bridge to Satsuki? Can you compare this with the significance of the kitchen to Mikage? What is the importance of cultural landscapes to Banana?
3. The four female characters (Mikage, Eriko, Satsuki, Urara) have all dealt with death and each seems to possess a different level of “wisdom” about it. Discuss each individual and how that wisdom is shared.
4. Discuss Urara’s character in the book.
5. These two stories were written by the same author: they seem to possess similarities in their plots but differ in writing styles. Comment.