

• THE GIRLY BOOK CLUB •

CIRCE

BY MADELINE MILLER

1. Did you enjoy this book? Rate it out of 5.
2. Circe struggles to find a place for herself as a woman in a man's world. What parts of her experience resonate with modern day challenges that women face?
3. A central theme of Homer's *Odyssey* is a longing for "nostos"—homecoming. In what way does that theme resonate with Circe's story?
4. Throughout the novel Circe draws distinctions between gods and mortals. How does Glaucus change when he becomes a god?
5. Circe wonders if parents can ever see their children clearly. She notes that so often when looking at our children "we see only the mirror of our own faults." What parts of herself does she see when she looks at Telegonus? What are her strengths and weaknesses as a parent to him?
6. Circe's sister Pasiphaë begins the novel as a major antagonist. How does our perspective of her change after Circe's visit to Crete?
7. Circe begins the novel feeling very close to her brother Aeëtes. Why do their paths diverge so wildly? Why do you think he make the choices he does?
8. Circe tells us that she recognizes parts of herself in Medea. In what ways are the two women similar? In what ways are they different?
9. Circe encounters several famous figures from Greek myth. Were any of their portrayals surprising?
10. There are numerous references to crafts in the novel, including weaving, carpentry and metal-working. What role does craft play in Circe's story?
11. How does Circe's relationship with her father change over the course of the book? What do you make of their final conversation?
12. We see numerous powerful characters abusing their positions throughout the story. Are power and abuse necessarily connected? Are there any models for power without cruelty in the novel?
13. Circe's gift is transformation. How does she transform from the beginning of the novel to the end? Why does she ultimately choose the path she does?
14. If you had the chance to ask the author of this book one question, what would it be? Want us to ask Madeline for you? Submit your author questions to info@thegirlybookclub.com