

the GLOSS
NIGHTCRAWLING

LEILA MOTTLEY

1. Did you enjoy the book? Rate it from 1 - 5.
2. A recurring element in *Nightcrawling* is the imagery of water, from the swimming pool in Kiara's apartment complex to the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. What do these bodies of water represent to Kiara, and how do they manifest themselves in her emotional state throughout the text?
3. In the absence of parental figures, Kiara must piece together her own family, reflecting, "Mama used to tell me that blood is everything, but I think we're all out here unlearning that sentiment, scraping our knees and asking strangers to patch us back up" (page 32). Does Kiara succeed in creating a chosen family? Who are the members, and how do they support one another?
4. What are the different degrees of success and survival that Kiara sees in the characters around her, such as Alé, Cole, and Uncle Ty?
5. Is Marcus a good brother? How do these flashbacks differ from the Marcus who interacts with Kiara within the timeline of the story? In what ways does he support Kiara, and in what ways does he fail her?
6. Do you think it is important that the story is written from a first-person perspective? How would the novel be different if it was told by a character other than Kiara?
7. Despite their strained relationships with their mother and father, do Kiara and Marcus inherit any of the behaviours and personalities of their parents?
8. Describe your impressions of Marsha and the development of her relationship with Kiara. What steps must Marsha take to gain her trust? In what ways can Marsha see Kiara, and in what ways is she blind to her experiences?
9. During her testimony for the grand jury, Kiara repeats, "I was a child" (page 263). Why is this important for Kiara to recognize?
10. How did you react to the grand jury's verdict?