



Seeds of the Pomegranate

by Suzanne Uttaro Samuels

Discussion Questions

1. *Origins and Secrets.* Mimi uncovers the truth about her family's past only gradually. How do secrets shape the choices of different generations in the novel?
2. *Mimi's Dilemma.* What did you think of Mimi's decision to go along with the counterfeiting scheme? Was she trapped, complicit, or both?
3. *Women's Power and Powerlessness.* How do women in the novel exercise influence in families, businesses, and the underground economy?
4. *Art, Authenticity, and Deception.* Forgery and religious iconography are central to this story. What do these themes reveal about the line between truth and survival?
5. *Migration and Identity.* How do characters navigate cultural identity—Italian, Sicilian, American—especially in the face of poverty, illness, or criminalization?
6. *Resilience and Resistance.* In what ways do characters “mutiny” against the constraints placed on them? Who shows the most courage?
7. *Pomegranates as Symbols.* Why do you think the author chose this fruit as a central image? What might the seeds represent?
8. *Then and Now.* What parallels do you see between the world Mimi inhabits and today's social, political, or immigrant struggles?