

QUEENMAKER Reading Group Guide

1. Michal tells her story in the first person. What does the story gain by being told only through Michal's eyes? How would the story be different if it were told in the third person, and from other points of view?
2. Michal's goals change during the course of her life. What are her goals, and how does she achieve them? How and why do they change?
2. Although there are many men in Michal's life, eventually she learns that it's the relationships between women that are most important to her. How does Michal learn this? How do her bonds with other women help her? How do they hinder her?
3. The Philistine concubine Zhurleen embodies the traditional feminine path to power. What does Michal learn from her? How would the course of Michal's life have changed if she had followed Zhurleen's advice?
4. Bathsheba is used as a weapon by both David and Michal. Who do you think wins the struggle over Bathsheba? How does this affect Bathsheba's life?
5. Although she has no son of her own, Michal uses her power to train up the next king. What does her raising of Solomon show about her knowledge of and use of power?
6. How does Michal's relationship with Abishag show the changes in Michal since she was a girl? How does it show the changes from King Saul's day in the way kings and courts are regarded?
7. Although Michal never likes David's general, Joab, she comes to an uneasy truce with him. How are Michal and Joab's goals similar? How are they different?
8. Michal learns about kingship and power from many people, including King Saul, Phaltiel, Nathan, and Zhurleen, as well as from David himself. How does what she learns differ in each case? How is it the same? What decisions does she make that lead to her becoming a true queen?
9. Spinning and weaving are used as motifs throughout the book. How do these traditionally female tasks mirror women's lives?
10. In the end, Michal thinks she has chosen love over wisdom and power. Is she right?