



SEVEN NOBLE KNIGHTS

Reading Group Guide

Your book club or reading group is a fantastic opportunity to engage in the art of conversation, revive oral storytelling, and just have a great time. These questions will help stimulate an intriguing discussion among readers of *Seven Noble Knights*.

READER RESPONSE

How did you experience *Seven Noble Knights*? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to get into it?

Did *Seven Noble Knights* take you outside your comfort zone?

What major emotional response did the story evoke in you?

Do you think the title *Seven Noble Knights* does justice to the novel?

CHARACTERS

Which character did you feel the most empathy towards?

Did you like the characters and, if not, was that important?

Were there any characters you loved to hate?

Did any character remind you of someone you know?

Why does Doña Lambra take such offense at her wedding, even after the count resolves the issue legally? Are her later actions justified?

Why does Gonzalico lash out at Little Page?

If you were Almanzor, what would you do with Don Gonzalo?

Should Justa have escaped with Adalberto? Does Justa deserve to be happy? What would happiness look like for someone in Justa's position?

What would you have done if you were Mudarra?

Why do the ghosts appear to Mudarra and Doña Sancha?

If you were Doña Sancha, would you have forgiven Ruy Blásquez? Do you agree with her decisions about her brother's and sister-in-law's fates?

Why do you think Justa and Blanca Flor flee near the end of the novel? What would you have done in their position?

Do you think Blanca Flor will ever see Mudarra again? Would she want to, after what he did to her mother and father?

What do you think the use of multiple points of view contributed to the story? Could the story have been told from a single character's point of view?

SETTING

How did the environment affect the story? Do you think this story could happen anywhere other than medieval Spain?

How might the events of Part One be different if they had taken place in the twenty-first century? Part Two?

When Don Gonzalo rides to Córdoba, he imagines how the Christians can take over the land he's in, which has been under Muslim control for close to three hundred years. Does he feel at home when he arrives at Medina Azahara? What makes for a good claim to land?

Which location was your favorite? Why?

In Barbadillo today, there's a statue of Doña Lambra, and the crest of Salas de los Infantes shows Mudarra and Don Gonzalo holding a ring with the seven brothers around the border. Which town's memorial seems most appropriate? If you were the mayor of one of these towns, what kind of memorial would you create for visitors?

THE ENDING

Did the main characters change by the end of the book? If so, how?

Was the revenge satisfying? Do you think Doña Sancha and Don Gonzalo got it right, or do you sympathize with Mudarra's confusion?

Were you satisfied with the ending? What do you think the future holds for Mudarra, Doña Sancha, Justa, and Blanca Flor?

Did *Seven Noble Knights* leave any questions open-ended that you would like to know the answer to?

Had you read reviews before reading *Seven Noble Knights*? If so, did you agree with the reviewers?

If you could ask the author a question, what would it be?