

Becoming DINAH



Kit de Waal

Discussion Questions

- Kit de Waal wrote *Becoming Dinah* as a response to Herman Melville's classic novel, *Moby Dick*. If you've read *Moby Dick*, what would you say are the key similarities and differences between the two books?
- There are no female central characters in *Moby Dick*. What do you think is gained by switching the perspective to that of a young woman?
- What is the purpose of the opening scene? What impact did it have on you?
- How do you feel about the character of Ahab? How much sympathy do you have for him?
- Why do you think Dinah chose to rename herself Ishmael? What is the effect of alternating the chapter titles between the two names?
- How do you think Dinah's upbringing at the New Bedford Fellowship affects her choices throughout the story?
- How much of Dinah's decision to run away do you think is linked to Queenie and how much to do with the breakdown of her family?
- What do you think your own response would be under a similar set of circumstances?
- What do you think comes next for Dinah?

