

# Bookclub-In-A-Box Discusses the Novel Small Island by Andrea Levy

Andrea Levy



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Bookclub-In-A-Box Discusses the Novel Small Island by Andrea Levy Andrea Levy Small Island is a delightfully entertaining and probing book about Jamaican immigration to Britain in the days after WWII. Bookclub-in-a-Box looks at how Levy presents the black and white issues of post-war London which include questions of class, race and Empire. Her parents were part of this immigration movement and Levy is interested in examining the perspective of people like her parents. Bookclub-in-a-Box introduces readers to the immigrants Gilbert Joseph and Hortense Roberts whose mutual dream has always been to move to Britain, the mother country of the colony, Jamaica. After arrival, Gilbert and Hortense move into the boarding house run by Queenie Bligh while her husband, Bernard, is away fighting the war. Through these four characters, Levy explores the impact of immigration on both the immigrant and the citizen. This Bookclub-in-a-Box discussion will guide the reader to uncovering the following: The impact and legacy of the history of the British Empire and its colony, Jamaica. The significance of the title, Small Island. Levy illustrates intolerance, stereotype and prejudice in a country which had just fought a war against intolerance, stereotype and prejudice. The question of immigration asks who is more changed, the immigrant who arrives or the people who accept them? Bookclub-in-a-Box guides you through the serious themes and perspectives that Levy brings out in her very amusing, yet emotionally poignant, scenes involving each of her four main black and white characters. The reader will navigate through their accepting and generous or judgmental and small-minded dealings with each other. The ultimate irony in the novel is that although everyone's common language is English, no one understands the other. Every Bookclub-in-a-Box discussion guide includes complete coverage of the themes and symbols, writing style and interesting background information on the novel and the author, as well as a complementary RAG (Read-Along-Guide), a quick reference pamphlet offering interesting facts and questions to consider while reading the novel.

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