

## ***Rain Song Discussion Questions***

All her life Nicole has pushed away anything to do with Japan. Why does Nicole fear Japan so much? Is her fear justified? Is there any place you particularly dislike because of something that happened there?

Nicole's feelings about Monet change the more she gets to know the little girl. Have you ever found beauty in someone you once thought irritating? Has a child ever surprised you with his/her talent or intelligence? Have you ever dealt with a hard-to-diagnose condition?

Do you have a family member you never got to meet due to his/her death that you wish you had been able to know? What has captivated you about this relative?

Nicole has to come to terms with her past so she can welcome her future. Have you ever had to do this? Do you think Nicole handled it well? Do you think Nicole's life will be different now that she knows more about her family history?

Do you attend family reunions or get-togethers? What do you like and not like about them? Do you consider family togetherness important?

What are some traditions that keep your family united?

What does Nicole value in her life? What do you value in your life?

Nicole's father is prone to alcohol abuse and depression, and often disappoints Nicole. Why do you think he has never been able to get over Nicole's mother's death? How do you handle those in your family who are hard to deal with?

Nicole heads to the beach to consider Harrison's request to come to Japan. When you have a problem to ponder, do you have a special place you go to think? What do you like about this place? If you could visit one country you've never been to, which one would it be?

What do you think of Ducee's Southern Truths? What bits of wisdom have other people given you? Do you have any of your own "Southern Truths"?

Do you see a future for Harrison and Nicole? Why or why not?