

Isabel Allende - "And of Clay Are We Created" Discussion Topics

1. What do you make of the title to this short story? Many see a Biblical reference. Do you?
2. What happens to Rolf in his encounter with Azucena?
3. In what ways does Rolf's past parallel Azucena's?
4. Why does Azucena become a symbol of the tragedy that unfolds?
5. What did you think of the President's visit to the disaster site? What is Allende saying here?
6. What is saddest in this story: Azucena's suffering or the fact that no one cares? Should the public be allowed to watch personal suffering such as Azucena's? Explain your thinking.
7. How is Rolf changed as a result of knowing Azucena?
8. Why may Allende have chosen to use Rolf's wife as the narrator for this story?
9. Note the frequent references to cameras, lenses, and screens in this story. How is this imagery related to the meaning of this story?
10. Note the references to clay and mud. How is this imagery related to the meaning of the story?