

# ESSENCE

## BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you first started reading ESSENCE, what did you think the story was going to be about?
2. Now that you have finished ESSENCE, do you feel your prediction was accurate? How was it correct, and how was it incorrect?
3. What do you think the overall theme of ESSENCE is? Did you notice any sub-themes?
4. The question on the cover of ESSENCE reads, "What if your whole life hung in the balance?" Do you think this is a literal or metaphorical question? How do you think the sport of slacklining plays into this question?
5. Several times throughout the story, Autumn mentions she is both claustrophobic and afraid of heights. How do you think these dual fears play into ESSENCE's overall theme?
6. How important do you think the setting and time period is to the story? Do you think this story could have worked in a different setting or time period? Why, or why not?
7. What do you think Autumn's greatest strength is? What is her biggest weakness? How did these qualities play into her journey?
8. Do you share any similarities with Autumn? Would you have handled any of her experiences differently?
9. How were Autumn and Ryder's childhoods similar? How were they different? How did their upbringings play into their interactions?
10. Why do you think Autumn chose the love interest she chose? Would you have chosen differently? Why, or why not?
11. Compare and contrast the characters of Cedar and Rex. Which character do you like/dislike the most? Why?
12. Which character in ESSENCE is the most like you? What are your similarities with this character, and what are your differences?
13. Who was your favorite character in ESSENCE? Your least favorite? Why?
14. What life lessons do you think the main characters in ESSENCE learned by the end of the book? How do you think these life lessons will play into their future lives?
15. Where do you think ESSENCE's main characters will go next?