

1. Reflecting on the constant fear and surveillance the author experienced since childhood, Castillo wonders if he will ever be able to live “absolutely everything about myself with complete abandon, without fear of judgment and repercussions.” How does this fear and surveillance impact Castillo? In what ways can you relate to his question?
2. Castillo tells of the moment when he dissolves in bleach all the false documentation he’s used throughout his life, “a paper trail of my disappearances, of all the people that I was not.” How does the author reclaim the story when he no longer needs to remain invisible for his survival?
3. What roles do vision and visibility play in this book?
4. What does Castillo mean when he says, “I ventured to believe that the function of the border wasn’t only to keep people out, at least that was not its long-term function.” What other purposes do borders serve?
5. What will you carry with you from *Children of the Land*?

*These questions were inspired by the Great Stories Club discussion questions published in partnership with ALA.*