



Discussion Questions: *Love in Color*

“Words, Words, Words” Book Club—June 2022

1. What are your first impressions of the collection? Are there stories you were particularly drawn to?
2. Which, if any, of the myths were you familiar with before reading the collection? If you recognized the story, how did you feel about its retelling? Were you conscious of missing something in the stories you didn't recognize or did you feel they held up independently of their source material?
3. Much in the way myths provided the foundation for Babalola's retelling, Shakespeare's plays often are sources of inspiration for contemporary adaptations. To what extent have Shakespeare's plays become contemporary myths? What do all of these stories have to make them resonate in so many different ways?
4. Both Babalola and Shakespeare were inspired by the myth of Pyramus and Thisbe, to greatly contrasting effects. How would you compare the two treatments? [[Read Shakespeare's version on The Folger Shakespeare.](#)]
5. Babalola chose myths from a variety of countries. What similarities do you see within the tales?
6. Nefertiti and Yaa are included as mythical characters despite being historical figures. Where do you think the line is between mythical and historical? Considering a similar historical figure, do you think Shakespeare's treatment of Cleopatra crosses that line? Has Shakespeare himself crossed that line?
7. The final three stories are original tales, the last based on Babalola's parents. Do you notice anything different about these stories versus the ones that came from previously established tales? Why do you think Babalola decided to include her parents in this collection?
8. Though the stories focus on couples, each is named after the central female character. Why do you think Babalola chose this? What does it say about her approach to her retellings? Do you think the stories would read differently if both names were included?
9. Many of the stories contain a violent element, yet are less violent than their source material. Why do you think violence is so prevalent in mythologies? What is the effect of its presence here?
10. Which, if any, of the stories came closest to your own definition of romantic love? Were there elements that felt particularly resonant with contemporary romance and courtship?