

Discussion Questions for

Photographic: The Life of Graciela Iturbide

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1. Page 21 – As a young woman Graciela experiences an unimaginable tragedy and uses photography as a way to understand the tragedy. She says, "I choose photography over tradition. I become the black sheep in my family. This is how I find myself. By choosing who I will be." How does Graciela's choice help her to discover who she is? What are some of the things she discovers about herself?
2. Photography helps Graciela make sense of death, of the world, of herself. Why do you think that is? How could the act of taking a photograph help you make sense of something?
3. Page 31 - Graciela travels to California to photograph the Mexican American *cholos* and *cholas* from the White Fence neighborhood of East Los Angeles. When Graciela takes a picture of Rosario and little Boo Boo, Rosario "lets [Graciela] hold them both with her lens." What does that mean? How does Graciela use her photographs to tell her subjects' stories?"
4. Throughout the book, Graciela is depicted asking her subjects for permission to take their pictures. What effect do you think that has on her photographs? Do you think photographers are obligated to ask permission before taking a picture?
5. After her travels to India, Graciela becomes more interested in photographing objects. What do you think would be different about photographing people and photographing landscapes or objects? Which would you prefer and why?
6. Graciela uses photography to tell stories about herself and the places and people she meets. If you could tell a story using photographs would you tell your own, someone else's, or would you make one up?
7. Graciela's story is told through a mix of text, photographs, and illustrations. How might the book be different if it was all text? How do the illustrations or photographs help you understand the story differently?

About This Book:

When tragedy strikes Graciela Iturbide as a young mother, she turns to photography for solace and understanding. From then on Graciela embarks on a photographic journey that takes her throughout her native Mexico, from the Sonora Desert to Juchitán to Frida Kahlo's bathroom, to the United States, India, and beyond. *Photographic* is a symbolic, poetic, and deeply personal graphic biography of this iconic photographer. Graciela's journey will excite young readers and budding photographers who will be inspired by her resolve, talent, and curiosity.



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