

Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back
Janice P. Nimura

Questions for book group discussion

--Which of the three "daughter's" lives resonated most with you?

--Are there members of your book group whose own lives straddle two or more countries or cultures? How do these experiences affect their understanding of these women's lives?

--What did you find most surprising? Dismaying? Heartwarming? Poignant?

--Did this story shift any preconceptions you may have had about Japanese culture or early U.S.-Japan relations?

--History is not often told from the point of view of young girls. How did this perspective affect your response to the material?

--Could these women--charged with a mission to help educate their countrywomen to be good wives and wise mothers--be considered feminists? Why or why not?

--How did the photographs affect your understanding of the material? (For more photos not included in the book, go to <http://www.janicenimura.com/photo-gallery/>)

--Although Janice Nimura became intimately familiar with Japanese culture through her studies and her husband's family, she is a white American. Does this fact compromise or enhance her ability to write this particular story?