

Northwestern

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY
ENRICHMENT
Education

GLO + OCE Education Team Reading Group

Book: *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid

Discussion Questions

1. Throughout the novel the doors that appear are not always used for escape, what are the meanings behind the doors beyond transporting people else where? What would a door mean if it appeared in your life today?
2. Hamid employs many craft techniques to convey how war disrupts and forever alters people's lives. An example being we, the readers, are told that Nadia's ex-boyfriend will die soon after their breakup, but she will never know. There are other moments like this throughout. What might be his intentions for shaping the story this way?
3. As Saeed and Nadia move through different countries and communities, their identities and relationship evolve in profound ways. How does *Exit West* illustrate the tension between the desire to maintain a stable sense of self and the pressures of constant adaptation within a globalized world? What does the novel suggest about how migration reshapes not only where we live, but *who* we become?
4. Hamid never names the protagonists' home country, yet he saturates the novel with rituals of belonging—Saeed's prayers, Nadia's robe, shared meals. As they pass through doors into London, California, and beyond, these practices shift from identity markers to survival tools. *When displacement turns citizenship into something you carry rather than somewhere you belong, does identity become more authentic or more fragile? What does the novel suggest about whether "home" can ever be rebuilt, or only performed?*