

AMONG THE MAASAI

JULIET CUTLER

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◊◊ READING GROUP GUIDE ◊◊

1. Why do you think the idea of teaching in Tanzania first appealed to Cutler? How do her motives for teaching in Tanzania change during the course of the book?
2. In the Morogoro market, a young Tanzanian boy offers Juliet an orange, and later in the book, Cutler gives oranges to Arusha's street kids. Thus, the orange becomes a literary metaphor for giving and receiving. What does Cutler give and what does she receive during her time in Tanzania?
3. Throughout her time in Tanzania, Cutler faces many ethical dilemmas. What are some of these dilemmas? How would you have handled these dilemmas if you had been in Cutler's shoes?
4. The first president of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere said, ". . . the choice is not between change or no change, the choice for Africa is between changing or being changed." How does Neng'ida experience and come to understand the cultural changes that the Maasai face?
5. In Chapter 24, Cutler says, "I found myself frequently wondering how well-intentioned people in the West, like me and other short-term volunteers, could best help the Maasai, or Tanzanians in general." What do you think are the best approaches to poverty alleviation?
6. One recurring theme in the book is cultural difference. What do you think are the most significant cultural differences identified in the book? Which ones surprised you the most? What do you think Cutler learned about cultural difference?