

Teachers' Guide for *Semiprecious* by D. Anne Love

Questions for Discussion

This story takes place at the beginning of the Civil Rights movement. How do the changes taking place in the country mirror changes in the lives of Garnet and Opal?

How does Garnet's relationship with Aunt Julia and with Charlie Twelvetrees change her?

What do the sisters learn about the nature of families? What do they learn about themselves?

What does Garnet's art teacher, Miss Mendez, say regarding the purpose of art? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

What do you think happens to Garnet and Opal after their return to Mirabeau?

What do you think happens to Melanie?

Topics for further study/discussion

The Civil Rights movement

Music of the 1960's

Diego Rivera: His Life and Work

David Siqueiros and *American Tropical*

American muralists of the 1930's

American Indians and the Trail of Tears