

***Favoured Among Women* by Hedy Leonora Martens: Book Club Questions**

1. In what ways is Greta a “favoured child” in the first book?
2. How did Greta’s childhood interactions with the *Russe-Mejales* help prepare her for the challenges she faced later in life?
3. How does Greta’s close friendship with Neta impact her life throughout the novel?
4. Why is Greta’s mother so set against Heinrich for most of the novel? Why does her opinion about him finally change?
5. How does Rita resemble Greta when she was a child?
6. Does Greta and Heinrich’s constant struggle to get to Canada increase their suffering or decrease it? How so?
7. How does Greta feel about Heinrich’s brother Jascha? Do her feelings change over time?
8. Think about how Heinrich’s character is such a stabilizing force for Greta. How does her character change during Heinrich’s absences when she has to take care of her family by herself?
9. In what ways does the simple act of singing affect the characters (especially Greta and Heinrich’s family)?
10. In Michaelsburg, why does Greta always have to be the first one at the field to pick cotton?
11. The author has chosen to present this story in a variety of formats: historical reporting, biographical fiction, poetry, personal commentary. What do you think of this choice? How would Greta’s story have fared if presented in a more conventional manner?
12. The ending of this book may surprise you, as many questions remain open and unanswered. Another volume of Greta’s story is planned by the author. How do you react to the conclusion of this volume?