1. **Joheved and Salomon begin the novel as strangers.**
   - How does the bond between them develop and change with time?
   - What do they have in common?

2. **Since Talmudic times, women have been excluded from Talmud study.**
   - Why does Joheved want to study Talmud?
   - Did the novel’s Talmudic quotes help your understanding of the Jewish religion and its laws?
   - Did any of these laws surprise you? Intrigue you?
   - Why do you think more Jews don’t study Talmud today?

3. **Joheved’s world is filled with demons.**
   - Were you surprised that an educated man such as Salomon believed in demons?
   - Were you surprised by other superstitions Jocheved’s family accepted?
   - Do you recognize any superstitions that are practiced today?

4. **Rashi’s Daughter: Secret Scholar is filled with carefully researched historical anecdotes that the author uses as inspiration for her imagined scenes.**
   - Were there any parts of the story where you wondered what was fact and what was fiction?
   - How could you find out?

5. **Rivka is upset that her daughters are learning Talmud.**
   - Are her objections reasonable?
   - Why would men not want women to study or attain knowledge?
   - Do women today still try to hide their intelligence? Why?

6. **Joheved and Meir have an arranged marriage, as do Salomon and Rivka.**
   - How does Joheved and Meir’s relationship compare to Salomon and Rivka’s?
   - To Miriam and Benjamin’s?
   - Could you imagine an arranged marriage vs. marrying for love?

7. **Relations between French Jews and Christians were fairly tolerant during the 11th century.**
   - Was this lack of overt anti-Semitism surprising?
   - Did any other elements about life in medieval times in this book surprise you?

8. **The author includes a glossary of terms at the end of her novel.**
   - Did these help you understand and enjoy the book?
   - Why do you think the author weaves Hebrew and French words into her characters’ dialogue?

9. **Religion was a powerful force for both Jews and Christians in medieval times.**
   - Is religion as powerful a force today?
   - How does your religion, or lack of one, influence your life?