

Questions for *Wild Thorns*

1. Compare and contrast the “ride home” in *Wild Thorns* and *Returning to Haifa*.
2. Why is Usama repulsed at the behavior and attitudes of West Bank Palestinians? How has Nablus changed? Does he have a right to make this critique?
3. What contrasting picture of Israeli society does Khalifeh draw? How does she depict Israelis? What differences exist among Israelis—who has the most power and authority?
4. What is the significance of the stories that Abu Sabir asks to hear after he has been injured?
5. What is Usama's dilemma?
6. What class does Adil represent? How can you tell? What does his father represent?
7. What forms does resistance take in the occupied territory and how is it countered by Israeli authorities? What role do women take in the resistance effort?
8. Why is Um Sabir unhappy with Adil?
9. How do Khalifeh's and Daneshvar's portrayal of Middle Eastern women differ from that of Mahfouz, Kanafani, and Muwaylihi.
10. Why does Um Sabir's attitude change after the murder of the Israeli officer?
11. How is the al-Karmi family distinctly Palestinian and how does it represent "every family"?
12. Contrast the overall message of *Wild Thorns* with that of *Returning to Haifa*.