



The Lemon Tree

By: Sandy Tolan

1. Bashir and his family kept their focus on the “right of return.” Why was this such a singular focus for Palestinians during this time? If it were you who had been displaced, would you also demand to return home, or would you, at some point, decide it would be easier to live in peace, if also in exile?
2. How much of a role do you think the Holocaust, and reaction to it through the crafting of a Sabra (“New Israeli Man”) identity, played in the formation of Israel’s national psyche? How great a role have these factors played in determining the attitudes of Israel’s citizens, its soldiers, and its leaders?
3. After Dalia’s parents died, and Bashir got out of prison, why did Dalia get in touch with Bashir? What is the meaning of this gesture to share the home in Ramla? What is the meaning of the agreement Dalia and Bashir forged that day?
4. Near the end of the book (p. 262) Dalia says, “Our enemy is the only partner we have.” What does she mean by that?

SAY NO TO THE
SINGLE
STORY