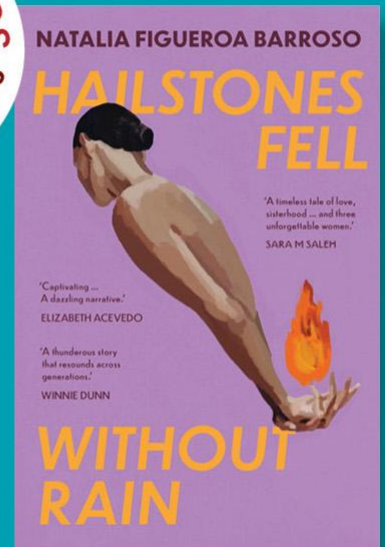




SummerReads

BOOK DISCUSSION GUIDE



***Hailstones fell without rain* by Natalia Figueroa Barroso (University of Queensland Press)**

1. *Hailstones Fell without Rain* is divided into four parts. Which one did you connect with the most and why?
2. What did you know about Uruguay's civic-military dictatorship and the country's Indigenous peoples before reading *Hailstones Fell without Rain*? How did the novel add to your knowledge of Latin American politics?
3. What context does the author give for Grachu's attitude towards Pancha's marriage and Rita's sexuality? How does this play out in our society more broadly?
4. Which of the minor characters stood out to you the most? Did you have a favourite?
5. Pathetic fallacy is a literary technique that attributes human feelings and emotions to inanimate things or animals. How does *Hailstones Fell without Rain* use this technique?
6. How do Grachu, Chula and Rita each feel about their jobs? What does the novel have to say about the role of work in our lives?
7. *Hailstones Fell without Rain* travels through different places, including Fairfield, el Cerro and Cabo Polonio. Which location felt most alive to you and why?
8. For Grachu and Rita, what does it mean to belong in Australia?
9. If you could give one of the main characters some life advice, what would it be?
10. What character traits, habits or ideas are passed down from generation to generation of las Ferreira women? What other parallels are there between the generations?

Questions from the University of Queensland Press Book Club Notes