

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA ALUMNAE BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
DECEMBER 2021 – “GINGERBREAD” BY HELEN OYEYEMI

1. What was your overall impression of “Gingerbread” by Helen Oyeyemi?
2. “Gingerbread” is widely tied to the fairy tale story of Hansel and Gretel. What did you think of the differences and similarities between these two stories?
3. Harriett’s description of her gingerbread doesn’t depict the usual soft and sweet treat we normally think of. When reading the depiction of Harriett’s gingerbread, what were you picturing in your mind (or tastebuds 😊)? What did you like or dislike about the way it was described?
4. What was your impression of the fictional Druhástrana?
5. While Clio Kercheval was filled with deceit and corruption, her daughter Gretel was not. Why do you think Gretel wanted to help Harriett and Margot?
6. What similarities can you draw between the vast power and influence of the Kercheval family and another family in our real world?
7. What did you think of the Kercheval’s eventually accepting Perdita as a member of the family and wanting to give the women one of three houses? What was your first thought upon reading about the house made of gingerbread?
8. Throughout the novel, Harriett struggles to get over her past and previous relationships. Have you ever had a similar situation in your life? If the case, what helped you to eventually move on?
9. What were your feelings on the way the book ended? What questions were you left with?
10. Author Helen Oyeyemi is known for her quirky and fantastical writing. What type of writing style do you like best?