

1. Come up with one question for Mohsin Hamid. 1) What is your question? 2) Why would you like an answer to this question in particular? 3) What answer do you expect?
2. Hamid says he was worried how Americans would take the novel. Should he have worried?
3. At the beginning of the book, Changez says that his companion's "bearing" gives him away as an American. What does Changez mean by this? What are his deeper implications?
4. What do we learn about the American who sits across the table from Changez? How does Hamid convey this information? What do we never learn about the American? Consider how what we don't know about him influences our understanding of both Changez's monologue and the author's intent.
5. In Chapter 5, Changez is in a hotel in Manila, packing his suitcase and watching television, when he sees the towers of the World Trade Center collapse. "And then I smiled," he confesses. Explore this scene as the turning point of the novel — in terms of plot, character, scope, and tone.
6. *In Chile, Changez befriends the head of the publishing company his firm is there to value. Why are the two men drawn to each other? Why has Changez suddenly become so disinterested in his work? Who were the janissaries? Why does their history resonate so strongly with Changez?*
7. *Who is Jim, and why does he take such a liking to Changez? What do they have in common? Is his sympathy for Changez genuine?*
8. Discuss the two meanings of "fundamentalist" Hamid's title plays on — the first religious, the second suggested by Underwood Samson's business commitment to "Focus on the fundamentals." What do the different meanings suggest about the novel's themes?
9. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist turns out to be quite a page-turner — a political thriller that builds to a memorable conclusion. What exactly happens at the end of the novel? What clues or foreshadowing tipped you off as to how the book would end? Why does Changez tell this stranger his story?*
10. *Consider the final scene. We never know the purpose of Changez, or the American. We don't know the truth of the situation, who the good guy or bad guy is. Answer one of two prompts regarding this fact:*
 - a. *Does it matter who was good or bad? Was there even a good or bad guy?*
 - b. *Why did Hamid end his novel this way?*
11. Regarding Global Issues, how does one (or more) of these topics help create a lens in which to read Hamid's novella?
 - Culture, identity, and community
 - Beliefs, values, and education
 - Politics, power, and justice
 - Art, creativity, and the imagination
 - Science, technology, and the natural world